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The Bombay Gazette.

No. 50,951—New Series. BOMBAY:—SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1897.

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PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY.

DEPARTURES FOR EUROPE.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	SATURDAY, 2 P.M.
R.I.AUSTRALIA	6951	I. Reeves	20th March.
* CARTHAGE	5108	M. DeHorne	27th "
R.I. INDIA	8000	R. F. Briscoe	3rd April.
* GANGES	4256	T. F. Creery	10th "
R.I.PENINSULAR	5267	W. A. Wheler	17th "
* CARTHAGE	5108	M. De Horne	24th "
R.I.BRITANNIA	8585	J. L. Parfitt	1st May.
* GANGES	4256	T. F. Creery	8th "
R.I.CALEDONIA	7568	W. R. Andrews	15th "
		FRIDAY, 2 P.M.	
* THAMES	4268	W. J. Nantes	21st May.
R.I.CARTHAGE	5108	M. DeHorne	28th "
* SHANNON	1170	F. Crewe	4th June.
R.I.ROHOMANDI	6952	F. H. Seymour	11th "
* GANGES	4391	T. F. Creery	18th "
R.I.INDIA	8000	R. F. Briscoe	25th "

The Steamers marked R.I. proceed to BRINDISI, PLYMOUTH and LONDON, direct.

The steamers marked * proceed to Aden only, and Passengers transfer to a Steamer for BRINDISI, PLYMOUTH and LONDON.

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Heavy baggage must be sent to the Ballard Pier (not Mazagon) before 8 a.m. on the day of sailing.

Before the departure of the Mail steamer, it is necessary for the Health Officer of the Port to hold a medical inspection of the Passengers and crew, and it is particularly requested that Passengers will muster at 1 p.m., for that purpose.

A Steam Tender leaves the Ballard Pier at noon on the day of sailing, to convey Passengers on board, and only such packages will be received. The attention of Passengers is called to the importance of having their Baggage labelled with Port of Destination.

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For further particulars apply to

I. M. SHIELDS,
Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Company.

Bombay, 8th March, 1897.

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UNDER MAIL CONTRACT WITH
THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

ACCELERATED SERVICE TO TRIESTE, *VIA* ADEN, SUEZ, AND PORT SAID.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on
IMPERATRIX	T. Raschoffsky	4313	1st Apl. 1897.
IMPERATOR	J. Nicolich	4110	1st May 1897.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Deck
TRIESTE, Or VENICE	Rs. 600	Rs. 375	Rs. 150

Steamers for BOMBAY leave TRIESTE on the 3rd, and BRINDISI on the 4th of each month.

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Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on
MARIA VALERIA	A. Palisca	4000	26th Mch.
VINDOBONA	C. Schiavi	4000	2nd Apl.

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	1st Class.	Deck.
TRIESTE or VENICE	Rs. 600	Rs. 150

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THE Company are now in a position to issue RETURN TICKETS available for one way by the Austrian Lloyd's and the Return by the Messageries Maritimes Co. at reduced fares. This arrangement will prove of special advantage to passengers on 3 months privilege leave.

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Steamer	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail on
GISELA	L. Brulla	4,253	23rd March 1897.

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FOR KURRACHEE *via* KATHIAWAR COAST PORTS AND MANDVIE.

S. S. "DUMRA," 1,695 tons, on the 23rd March, at 10 a.m., calling at Verawal, Mangrole, Porebunder and Dutch Mandvi, in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR KURRACHEE AND PERSIAN GULF.

S. S. "PACHUMBA," 1,536 tons, on the 25th March, about noon, calling at Kurrachee, Gwadur, Muscat, Bunder Abbas, Lingo, Bushire, Fao, and Bussrah, in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR COAST AND MADRAS.

S. S. "CHANDA," 2,022 tons, about 25th March.

FOR COAST PORTS AND RANGOON.

S. S. "CHUPRA," 1,944 tons, about 23rd March.

FOR ADEN, LAMOO, MOMBASSA, AND ZANZIBAR.

S. S. "GOA," 1,905 tons, on or about 27th March.

FOR SEYCHELLES, MOMBASSA, ZANZIBAR, AND DELAGOA BAY.

S. S. "KANGRA," 1,984 tons, on or about 11th April, calling at Seychelles, Mombasa, Zanzibar, Mozambique, Beira, Inhambane, and Delagoa Bay in the foregoing or any order.

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A DOCTOR'S TRETIMONY.

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JAS. H. SLEIGH,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Bombay, 15th March, 1897.

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(1) The detention at Wadi of all Second and Third Class Passengers, from Stations west of Wadi, for a few hours, to admit of a thorough examination and the treatment, by their qualified Medical Officers, of any one found to be ill. Females will be attended to by a Lady Doctor. First Class Passengers, being few in number, are examined immediately on the arrival of the trains, and passed on, unless ill, or detained for treatment, as may be considered desirable.

(2) Registers are maintained at Wadi Station of all passengers coming from the Bombay side, and of their addresses in the boys. This will enable the local Medical Officers to have passengers under observation for a week or ten days, so that any case of illness can be at once attended to and approved methods of disinfecting used to prevent the spread of the contagion.

(3) All Through Booking to Stations on the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways from Stations west of Wadi is strictly prohibited. Fresh tickets must therefore be purchased at Wadi.

(4) The importation into Hyderabad Territory of any foodgrains from Poona or any Stations west of Poona is prohibited. Any such consignments of grain will not be permitted to pass the Customs Houses.

(5) There is a Refreshment Room at Wadi Station and also a Dharmsala, so that all classes of passengers can be accommodated during their enforced stay there.

It will be seen that His Highness' Government are endeavouring to make the restrictions as little irksome as possible, considering how grave is the danger that is at stake, but the effect of these measures will be considerably neutralised unless passengers of all classes co-operate with the Government in, and thus render unnecessary any resort to more stringent measures. All passengers are, therefore, earnestly requested to frankly and truly answer all the questions put by the Medical Officers at Wadi and also at Vikarabad, for the earlier a case is taken in hand the greater the chance of recovery.

HORMASJEE N. VAKEEL,
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Translation of letter from Fiji.

The Letter of Jonathan to Mr. Dunsford.

"My Friend,—I write to you to-day to tell you about my illness. I love you very much to-day because of the medicine you gave to me. Three months I was very ill, truly, because of my leg I could not plant yams. I could not go fishing. I could not eat or sleep; but now I am quite well again. It is truly a wonderful medicine. I beg you, Mr. Dunsford, give me one more bottle, as the month of bolis is near.

"Preparation Day (Saturday), Bua, Vanua Levu.

Explanation of above Letter.

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"T. EDGCUMBE DUNSFORD.
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"21 June, 1892.

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Bombay Gazette

SUPPLEMENT

BOMBAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1897.

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THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1897-98.

The financial statement was presented at yesterday's meeting of the Supreme Council by Sir James Westland and published as a *Gazette of India* (extraordinary).

GENERAL REVIEW.

I have the honour to present to the Council the Financial Statement for the year 1897-98, including in it, as usual, the closed Accounts for 1895-96, the Revised Estimates for 1896-97, and the Budget Estimates for 1897-98.

ACCOUNTS OF 1895-96.

The Revised Estimates for 1895-96 closed last year with a surplus of Rx. 951,400. In the accounts this result has been improved by Rx. 582,598, the actual surplus of the year being Rx. 1,533,998.

The main differences were (1) that the principal heads of Revenue produced Rx. 240,041 more, (2) Railways produced a better net result by Rx. 103,432, (3) the Army net Expenditure was Rx. 213,054 less. The other differences are too small to require separate mention.

It has not been customary in the Financial Statements to give any detailed explanations with regard to the closed accounts of the previous year, for the simple reason that they are usually published in the fullest detail in the Annual Volume of Finance and Revenue Accounts long before the date of the Statement. In the present year they were published earlier than usual, namely, on January 9th, and it is sufficient to lay a copy on the table, and to refer Honourable Members to the analysis of them published in the *Gazette of India* last Saturday, as the Comptroller General's Appropriation Report.

FAMINE CHARGES.

Passing to the Revised Estimates for 1896-97 and the Budget Estimates for 1897-98, I call to remembrance what Sir E. Baring said in his Financial Statement for 1882-83, paragraph 92, when he referred to the Famine Insurance Policy. "We do not profess to finance for a surplus in a year of famine. When a serious famine occurs, it is inevitable that the Expenditure of the year should be greater that the Revenue." In commencing my Financial Statement of last year, I summed up the actual figures, up to date, of the Famine Insurance Account, but I little thought then that we were on the brink of the disaster for which during so many years, we had been financially preparing, and that I would so soon have to announce the actual occurence of the deficits, against which that account is the financial set-off.

I may repeat here the figures of 15 years' Famine Insurance, substituting the actual figures of 1895-96 for those which were shown in last year's Statement :—

	Rx.
1. Spent upon actual Famine Relief.....	1320,664
2. Spent upon construction of Protective Irrigation Works	1,813,841
3. Spent upon construction of Protective Railways	6,550,931
4. Spent in meeting interest upon the Indian Midland and Bengal-Nagpur Railways..	3,631,450
5. Charged as reduction and avoidance of debt, that is, as famine surplus	5,327,299
	17,641,185

The effect of the Expenditure under headings 2, 3 and 4 is that for the present and all future famines we are so much better equipped with the means of meeting the demands arising out of scarcity, that we may reasonably hope to pass through the period of distress with far less of expenditure than otherwise would have fallen upon us. In the two years 1876-77 and 1877-78 of the last great famine the Government of India spent under the head of Famine Relief Rx. 7,493,151; will be seen that our present estimate for two years of a calamity, which is at any rate much more widely spread is Rx. 5,666,900: and this difference is due to our far more adequate organization, of which no small part is the better equipment in the form of Railways and Canals, with which, as the Honourable Sir J. Woodburn pointed out in his speech in Council on October 15 last, we start. The figures I give of course very far from exhaust, in either case, the cost of the famine to the State; for the loss of Revenue—both ordinary Revenue and Railway Revenue—is very large indeed, and in a hundred different and smaller ways do famine and scarcity cause increases of State expenditure in all Departments.

The amount under head (5), Rx. 5,327,299, though charged in our past accounts as expenditure, has really been utilized either in purchase of our own debt, or in reduction of new loans and in the construction of Productive Works. If State Book-keeping as affecting our Revenue Account, were a continuous operation like the carrying forward of a Profit and Loss Account, instead of one meant to shew the results of each twelve months operations taken by themselves, we would have to write off the cost of the present famine against this past charge of Rx. 5,327,299 before taking any part of it as a charge against the Revenues of the current year. It is necessary to bear this in mind, because one consequence of this method of stating our accounts is that in any total of surpluses and deficits, taken over a series of years which include a famine year, the total surplus so stated is less than the actual facts by the amount of the charge for reduction and avoidance of debt.

I shall have to deal separately with the effect of the famine and scarcity upon our ordinary Revenues and Expenditure; I state here only the totals of the estimated Expenditure upon direct famine relief. They amount Rx. 1,965,700 in 1896-97 and Rx. 3,641,200 in 1897-98, total Rx. 5,606,90. The first of these figures is largely based on consideration of known actuals for part of the year, but in neighter case can I put forward the figures as estimates in the sense in which we ordinary use that term Famine relief is administered upon certain definate principals, and on a system of test carefully laid down, and all I can say about the estimates of famine expenditure, in the future is that the figures are a summary of the best opinions which the Local Governments can give, as to the chances of the approaching spring crop, and of the crop due next autumn, and of the manner in which these crops, deficient, normal or abundant, will affect the multitudes, reckoned now by millions, who are at present compelled to seek relief at the hands of the State. In some parts of the distressed tracts the favourable prospects of the spring crop give ground for hope, that the necessities for famine relief will in a short while shew a marked diminution. In other, there is no hope of diminution till the autumn crop is harvested, and there may be any amount of increase. No past experience can serve as a guide in the solution of these difficulties of estimation. The figures must be taken for what they are worth; in some possible circumstances they may be found to be largely in excess of the actual expenditure; in other possible circumstances they may be found far short of it.

Up to the end of January the actual expenditure was 36 lakhs, of which about 13 were spent upon the Bandelkhand famine in the earlier part of the year, a famine of very great intensity for its small area, and so quietly and effectively mananaged by the Local Government that hardly anything was heard of it outside official circles. It is forgotton now in the presence of the greater calamity with which the same Government, as well as others, have to deal.

The amounts charged as famine relief are independent of very large advances under the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Act. But they include advances of another kind which have also been largely made by Government, namely, advances to Landholders for works to be conducted by them on Famine Relief principles for the employment of their Famine-stricken tenants, in respect of which they undertake to reimburse something approaching to the actual value of the work.

The measure of the Land Improvement and Agricultural advances due to the famine may be judged from the following figures :—

Land Improvement and Agricultural advances.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97. Revised.	1897-98. Budget.
	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
Bombay 88 700	99,300	351,800	117,700	
Total all India....200,800	25 ,200	1,068,802	493,100	

The operations of the Opium Department, that is to say, its usual advances for wells and for cultivation, helped very largely towards the relief of the peasantry in the distressed tracts of the North-Western Provinces and of Bengal.

While speaking of the finances of famine, it is necessary to note an arrangement in which the Government of India takes part for enabling the Native Bandelkhand States to undertake the necessary expenditure for famine relief of their subjects. They have been hard hit by not one but two or three successive bad seasons, and find themselves in some cases without adequate funds to meet the expenditure. The arrangement made in these cases in that His Highness the Maharaja Sindia has agreed to lend funds to the Native States in questions the Government of India becoming guarantee for the loan and taking measures to ensure its ultimate repayment.

REVISED ESTIMATE OF 1896-97.

The Budget Estimtes of 1896-97 worked out to a surplus of Rx. 463,100. The Revised Estimates work out to a deficit of Rx. 1,983,900, but between these two figures there are so many differances of detail that it is better to set them out in a tabular form.

ESTIMATES OF 1896-97.

	Budget.	Revised.	Revised, Better.	Revised, Worse.
STERLING IN ENGLAND.				
Revenue.....	174,100	319,400	145,300	...
Expenditure.....	15,809,400	15,880,600	28,800	...
Net Exchange on above	11 728,900	10,270,400	1,459,500	..
	27,435,200	25,831,600	1,633,600	..
REVENUES IN INDIA.				
Land Revenue	26,093,3 0	23,699,200	..	2,394,100
Opium	6,895,300	6,386,700	..	508,60
Salt	8,7 0,000	8,438,200	..	26 ,800
Other Principal Heads of Revenue	23,525,600	23,413,400	..	112,200
Departmental Receipts, including Interest and Civil Works.....	6,781,900	7,078,400	295,500	..
Railways	21,5 2,800	20,159,600	...	1,423,200
Irrigation	2,883,300	3,200,700	317,400	..
Military Works	5,000	61, 0	11,100	...
Army	803 600	836,300	32,700	...
	97,316,800	93,273,600	..	4,043,200
EXPENDITURE IN INDIA.—				
Direct Demands on Revenues—				
Opium..... ...	2,593,900	2,503,900	90,000	...
Other	8,470,700	8,318,700	152,000	..
Interest	— 96 ,300	—911,300	...	49,000
Civil Departments...	19,096,10 0	19,989,500	6,600	..
Famine Relief.....	75,000	1,951, 00	...	1,876,200
Protective Works ..	523,500	47,200	476,300	..
Railways	13,781,50	13,357,400	424,100	..
Irrigation	3,201,700	3,218,900	...	17,200
Military Works and Special Defences..	1,254,900	1,138,100	116,800	..
Civil Works.....	4,757,800	4,708 100	49,700	..
Army	17,480,100	17,205,700	274,400	..
	70,274,900	70,657,100	...	382,500
PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENT.				
Deduction made for charges taken to Provincial and Local Balances ...	—886 400	—1,228 500	342,100	..
Surplus (+) Deficit (—)	+463,100	—1,986,900	...	2,450,000

Estimates were taken at 13·75d., whereas the rate realized has been about 14·46d.

Under Land Revenue there is a very great falling-off, due to the fact that in the districts where the crops failed it was necessary to give large suspensions of revenue.

The losses, it will be seen, occur in the Central Provinces, in Upper Burma, very largely in North-Western Provinces, to a small extent in the Punjab, and a considerable amount in Madras and Bombay. The whole loss of Rx. 2,294,100 may be put down as caused by the scarcity,

Opium shews in the above statement a falling-off of Rx. 508,600, both the Bengal prices and the export from Bombay being unfavourably affected by low prices in China. There is a slight saving on the Expenditure side in Opium, as the Budget Estimates provided for a better crop than was actually housed.

The loss on Salt, Rx. 231,800, may for the most part be put down as one of the consequences of scarcity. It is chiefly during the second-half of the year that the falling-off has taken place: the receipts of the twelve months ending September 30th, 1896, were equal to the full Budget Estimate of Rx. 8,700,000.

Under other Revenue heads we almost always have to report a considerable advance in the Revised Estimates over the Budget figure. They would have shewn the same progress this year were it not for the falling-off in the North-Western Provinces and in Bombay, where losses of Rx. 429,600 are recorded.

These losses again are due to the effects of famine, and in the case of the Stamp Revenue of Bombay still more to the stoppage of trade in consequence of the plague. The Customs Revenue is on the whole slightly better than Budget.

Of the improvement under Departmental Receipts, Rx. 124,700 represents the premium received on the last loan (against which, under the same head of "Interest," there was a loss of Rx. 40,000 due by the Calcutta Port Commissioners and remitted), and Rx. 102,000 represents the increased gain on copper coinage, due to the very large issue of that coin in connection with Famine Relief Works. The gain on this coin is brought to credit as the coin passes into circulation.

The next great difference requiring explanation is in the Railway Receipts.

The figures give a falling-off of Rx. 611,200 on State Railways and Rx. 623,000 on Guaranteed, total Rx.1,234,200, an amount which accounts for the differences shewn in the above statements of Rx. 1,423,200 worse on the Revenue side, and Rx. 424,100 better on the Expenditure side; net Rx. 999,100. The lower receipts have saved us Rx. 142,000 in the payment of surplus profits, and the other Railway charges have also been less than the Budget Estimate. The principal contributors to the above losses are—

	Rx.
North-Western.....	140,000
Oudh and Rohilkhand.....	117,500
Rajptana Malwa...	252,500
Bombay, Baroda and Central India.....	26 ,000
Great Indian Peninsula.....	310,000

The Eastern Bengal Railway, on the other hand has gross receipts Rx. 180,000 better than Budget owing largely to a favourable jute season.

Irrigation is the only head which in a year of drought shews an improvement. The net receipts are better than Budget by Rx. 239,5000, the improvement being shared between the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab.

Passing to the figures on the Expenditure side, the heads Direct Demands on Revenues (other than Opium) and Civil Departments represent mostly charges regulated by sanctioned scale, and they shew the usual savings as compared with Budget. The excess expenditure under Interest is mostly a question of the distribution of this charge between ordinary debt and Railway debt. The heavy excess expenditure on Famine Relief requires no further explanation beyond what is given above. The saving on Protective Works is not a real one,—it merely means that the Madras-Bezwada Railway which is both a productive and a protective line, and which is charged to the Famine Grant when that grant is not otherwise appropriated, has this year to be transferred to the Capital Account of Railway construction.

There is a considerable saving of Rx. 274,400 under Army Expenditure. The principal items included in this are—

	Rx.
Unspent out of the special grant of Rx. 494,900 for Mobilization purposes, included in Budget.....	120,000
Saving in Exchange Compensation Allowance in consequence of better exchange.....	80,800
Savings in ordnance manufactures	75,000
Other very numerous savings on the grants (net)	230,600
TOTAL.....	506,400

Against this the rise in prices which set in in September has caused extra expenditure of Rx. 193,000, and excesses over established strength have caused excess charges of Rx. 33,000.

The "Provincial adjustment is better by Rx. 342,1000 translated into non-technical language, this means that the Provincial balances bear a share of the loss of Revenue and of the Expenditure (chiefly Famine Expenditure) included in the General Account, which is larger by Rx. 342,100 than they estimated a year ago, they would have to bear. The total

Provincial and Local Balances of 31st March 1897 stand as follows :—

	Budget 1896-97.	Revised, 1896-97.
	Rx.	Rx.
Provincial Balance	1,147,042	1,222,549
Local Balance	1,276,201	1,144,703
TOTAL	2,713 243	2,367,252

It may be well here to collect together the various items in these explanations which we have attributed to the effects of famine and scarcity—

	Rx.
Direct cost of Famine Relief	1,876,200*
Rise in prices in Army Expenditure	196,000
Loss of Revenue—	
Land Revenue	2,394,100
Salt Revenue	261,800
Other Revenues in North-Western Provinces and Bombay excluding Stamp Revenue	373,600
Loss of Railway Revenue (net)	1,234,200
Total	6,335 900
Gain under Irrigation Revenue	269,500
Net Result	6,066,400

* Besides Rx. 14,500 for English Expenditure and Exchange thereon

Of the above amount Rx. 574,700 falls upon Provincial and Local Balances, leaving Rx. 5,491,700 to be borne by Imperial.

LOAN OPERATIONS IN 1896-97.

As announced in the last Financial Statement, a 3 per cent loan of four crores of rupees was offered for public tender upon June 22, and the tenders were received upon July 22. Money throughout the earlier part of the financial year was extremely cheap, the Bank rate in England being 2 per cent and in Calcutta 4 per cent from May 28 and 3 per cent from July 2. The price of paper ruled high, our 3½ per cent guaranteed loans being in April about R. 108-7, in May about R. 110-4, and June about R. 110 2. The loan was very largely tendered for and was placed at an average of R. 103-1-10½, the lowest accepted tender being R. 102-7, and the allotments were practically all paid up by the end of August.

It will be remembered that in our conversions of 1894 we offered to those holders of paper who accepted conversion, an equivalent amount of promissory notes on which 3½ per cent interest was guaranteed up till August 1904. Those who did not accept were afterwards offered, and most of them accepted, ordinary 3½ per cent paper without any guarantee. We considered ourselves therefore in a manner bound, if favourable opportunity offered to convert the unguaranteed 3½ per cent paper, as otherwise it would necessarily be quite as good as the guaranteed. The amount of this ordinary 3½ per cent paper was—

(1)	Outstanding of	1853-54	46,760
(2)	"	1893-94	3,500,000
(3)	Accepted in conversions of 1894-95		2,138,190
	TOTAL		5,684,950

and if all this were added to the new loan, the new 3 per cent paper of the Government of India would amount to Rx. 9,684,950 in all.

Accordingly, after ascertaining that the operation of converting the outstanding unguaranteed 3½ per cent paper into the new loan would not be regarded by the holders of the new paper as in any way interfering with them, but would indeed rather help them by increasing the amount and the marketableness of the new loan, we notified this conversion upon September 4. The success of the new loan had established for the time a high price for securities of the Government of India, and the prospects of the conversion were favourable.

Rates held up, both in England and India, just long enough to enable the operation to be succesfully closed. The Bank of England rate, which had stood at 2 per cent, from February 1894, was increased to 2½ per cent on September 19, 1896, and to 3 per cent upon September 24, and the rise was the signal for a depression in the value of our securities. When the final day came of tendering for conversion the amount that had been tendered came to Rx. 4,887,160 and Rx. 797,790 was left outstanding for discharge. Of this amount, Rx. 296,600 has been presented for payment up to the beginning of March.

Since money hardened in Calcutta in November, the price of the new 3 per cent paper has ruled below par, but this is partly due to the comparative absence of a market, as compared with the larger bulk of the 3½ per cent paper. Our present intention at least is to persevere with the 3 per cent rate, and by our future loans to increase its amount. We have now practically only two kinds of paper on the market, viz., the 3½ per cent guaranteed till August 1, 1904 and the 3 per cent guaranteed until December 31, 1916. The amounts of these two kinds of debt are at present as follows: 3½ per cent Rx. 82,754,840 besides Rx. 8,159,500 held in the Currency Reserve; 3 per cent Rx. 8,887,100, besides Rx. 2,048,050 created during the year for issue to Currency as mentioned in the next section.

RATE OF EXCHANGE.

Last year closed with a re-action from a somewhat sudden rise in the rate of exchange to 14⅜*d*. During April and May the rate fell from 14 3-8*d* to 13-13-16*d*. In June it recovered to 14-5-32*d*., and from then till the middle of October the rate was very steady at about 14⅛*d*. and 14-3-16*d*., the Secretary of State being very successful in planing his Bills. By the middle of October we had realized that a famine was upon us, and that it would be necessary, as a first step in meeting it, to make large suspensions of revenue and large agricultural advances. We were obliged, therefore, at very short notice to ask the Secretary of State to greatly reduce his drawings. And the result was that the rate of exchange and the Bank rate of interest both very sharply rose. The second week's drawing of October was at 14-7-32*d*.; the second week's drawing of November was at 15-27-32*d*.

This action on our part caused, I am afraid, grave inconvenience to mercantile circles in India, but it was not avoidable. It was only when the first ten days of October passed without bringing the desired rain that famine was converted from a mere possibility into an almost certainty, and the area affected was so widespread that the case demanded the reservation of all our financial means. These we took the opportunity of strengthening by carrying out on December 17 a measure which had been under public discussion for over a year, viz., the addition of two crores to our cash balances by the investment of part of the Currency Reserve. The exact figures of this operation were the issue of R. 2,0486,500 stock of the 3 per cent Loan of 1896-97, at the rate of the day, Rs. 97-10 per cent. being Rs. 54-6 less than the full two crores. With this transaction the tenseness of the situation passed away; but the rate of exchange on the drawings never fell below 15 pence, as the Famine expenditure and prospects compelled the Secretary of State to reduce his drawings, and there came a heavy demand for remittance in connection with the Burma rice crop.

BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1897-98.

Following my previous practice of abstaining from any speculation in exchange, I have taken the rate for the Budget Estimate at the same figure which has been realized in the year 1896-97, namely, 14·46 pence. It is impossible to say how trade and exchange may be affected by the very peculiar circumstances of the coming year. Made up upon this basis, the estimates of Revenue and Expenditure work out to a deficit of Rx. 2,464,000. It will be most convenient.

BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 1897-98 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1896-97.

	Budget, 1896-97.	Budget, 1897-98.	1897-98 Better.	1897-98 Worse.
STERLING IN ENGLAND—				
Revenue	174,100	173,000	..	1,100
Expenditure	15,909,400	16,088,500	...	179,100
NET EXCHANGE ON ABOVE	11,729,900	10,501,200	1,225,700	...
	27 465,200	26,41 ,700	1,045,500	...
REVENUES IN INDIA—				
Land Revenue	26,009,300	25,646,200	...	447,100
Opium	6,[illegible]9,300	5,[illegible]16,200	...	1,079,100
Salt	8,700,00	8,734,00	34,000	...
Other Principal Heads of Revenue	23,525,600	23,578,200	52,600	...
Departmental Receipts, including Interest and Civil Works	6,782,900	6,945,800	162,900	..
Railways	21,582,8 0	20,682,10	...	900,700
Irrigation	2,883,300	3,122,5 0	239,200	..
Military Works	50,000	5 ,000	..	..
Army	9,03,60	814,60	11,000	...
	97,316,800	95,389,6	...	1,927,200
EXPENDITURE IN INDIA—				
Direct Demands on Revenues—				
Opium	2,593,900	2,651,000	..	60,100
Other	8,470,700	8,52 ,400	...	49,700
Interest	—960,300	—961,900	1,600	...
Civil Departments	19,096,100	19,308,800	...	212,700
Famine Relief	75,0 0	3,641,200	...	3,566,200
Protective Works	523,500	25,000	49 ,500	..
Railways	13,781,500	13 7 2,00	29,500	...
Irrigation	3,20[illegible]7 0	3,110,000	91,700	...
Military Works and Special Defences	1,254,9[illegible]	1,207,30[illegible]	47,6	...
Civil Works	4,757,80[illegible]	4,398,2 0	359,6	..
Army	17, 80, 00	16,968,900	511,2[illegible]	...
	70,274,900	72,823,900	..	2,349,000
PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENT	—886,400	—1,190,000	303,600	...
Surplus (+) Deficit (—)	+463,100	—2,464,000	...	2,927,100

The main increases of expenditure in the English account are—

(1) Increasing Interest payment which account for the differences of £31,400 under Interest, and £99,100 under Railways.

(2) Increase of £37,700 under Superannuation Charges.

(3) There is an increase of £95,600 under Army Non-Effective Charges; but is is more than counterbalanced by a saving of £120,700 under Army Effective Charges, chiefly on account of Military Stores for India.

The deficiency under Land Revenue is heavy, namely, Rx.447,100, and may be explained by saying that in Upper Burma, in the Central and the North-West Provinces, and in the Punjab, we do not at present expect to receive, during the coming year, nearly the full measure of Land Revenue. The deficiency comes in the beginning of the year, and is due entirely to the failure of crops. If a prosperous harvest should ensue next October and November, we may reasonably hope for much better results than those shewn in our estimates.

Under Opium we are now suffering from the reaction which two years ago I pointed out to be inevitable. Scanty crops, and the high prices that follow them for a time, give favourable financial results while they last, but the high prices kill the demand, and both the exports of Malwa opium fall off and smaller prices are realized upon the Bengal drug. The prospects of the coming season, looked at from the point of view of the Opium Department, are extremely favourable, but to our Budget Estimates they mean low prices realized upon the still scanty sales, and heavy outgoings in payment for the raw produce. The result is a falling-off which may be thus distributed:—

	Rx.
By lower prices realized on the Bengal sales	875,500
By smaller export and lower duty in Bombay	190,400
and on the expenditure site—	
By heavier payment to cultivators	60,100

Under other revenue heads there are on the whole better results, though the influence of the famine is still shown in a falling-off, under Excise, of Rx. 65,000, and under Provincial Rates, of Rx. 48,100.

The departmental receipts are expected to be somewhat better on the whole than in the estimates of 1896-97. Post Office shews an advance of Rx. 53,000, more than covered, however, by an increased expenditure, and telegraph shews worse results on both sides, partly because the advance in revenue has been less than expected, and partly because the rents charged to railways for the use of wires and instruments have been reduced, and it is intended to introduce certain improvements in respect of delivery of deferred messages.

Railways show a great falling-off, as the traffic on them will be greatly affected as long as the effects of the present scarcity last. The following figures may be taken as a continuation of those stated in paragraph 21 above (Indian Accounts only:—

Budget, 1897-98.	Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Net.
	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
State Railways	...18,023,400	9,027, 00	8,996,100
Guaranteed Railways	5,740,000	3,110,000	2,630,000

On the expenditure side the figures which require special explanation, in addition to the above remarks, are the following:—

Direct demands on the revenues.—Increase Rx. 49,700. The principal item is Rx. 36,900 under Forests, which is of the nature of commercial outlay intended to bring in a good return. The Forest Department are carrying out a scheme, long planned and elaborated, which involves considerable additions to the subordinate establishment engaged in in conserving and working the Forests.

Civil Departments.—Increase Rx. 212,700. Of this, the principal items are Post Office Rx. 78,400 and Telegraph Rx. 44,700, due to normal expansion of the Department; Jails Rx. 68,400, being the estimates which the Provincial Government make of the consequence of increase of prices of food, and of the probable temporary increase of jail population in the distressed tracts; Police Rx. 70,500, due to continued pursuance of the plans for the reform of this Department, but also in some places the result of scarcity and distress; Superannuations, Rx. 23,200, an inevetable annual increase.

The heads of famine and railway have already been dealt with, and as explained in dealing with the revised estimates, the entry of Rx. 493,500, less expenditure on protective works, merely means that we shall not, in 1897-98, obtain from the Famine Grant the aid it usually gives towards expenditure on capital account. In view of the amounts, provided for famine relief, it has not been considered necessary to make special provision for any expenditure which may be entailed on the Imperial Account by the plague.

Civil Works.—The less expenditure Rx. 359,000 is due to the restriction of programme by the various local Governments enforced by the great reductions that famine expenditure has made in their available balances.

Under Army, there is on the whole a less expenditure in India by Rx. 511,200.

The Mobilization Grant was a special one for 1896-97, and a comparatively small amount of expenditure under this head is admitted into the estimates of 1897-98.

The principal features in the differences in the ordinary portion of the estimates are: (1) the higher prices of food necessitate an increase of Rx.339,300 in the estimates of 1897-98; and (2) there will be a saving of Rx. 323,00 in consequence of the application of more favourable rates of exchange to the calculation of the allowances of officers and of British solders. There are further numerous savings and a few increases of charge for which I refer to Part II of the statement.

QUINQUENNIAL SETTLEMENTS OF PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

The usual quinquennial investigations and settlements of provincial finance were made in the course of the year. Our proposals on the subject were made to the Provincial Governments at the beginning of October, before the appearance of famine; and afterwards, when famine supervened, we considered that, as the arrangements depend, not upon the figures of any one year, but upon the general standard of revenue and expenditure, it would be sufficient to reserve the final settlement so far as it regarded Land Revenue and Excise and one or two other heads in the Provinces severely affected by famine, but it was better to settle all other matters, than to leave them in a condition of suspense. The settlement of these standards of existing revenue and expenditure is the necessary condition for the exercise by Local Governments of the financial authority entrusted to them, in the same sense as the settlement of the Budget Estimates determines the plan upon which our own financial administration is to be pursued for the next twelve months.

The first process in these settlements is the enquiry what is to be accepted as the proper amount of expenditure for which an assignment of revenue is to be made. The expenditure may be stated in general language as that incurred in each province upon Civil Administration; the revenue and expenditure on account of Irrigation are also provincialized in Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Madras, but this part of the arrangements need not be more specially referred to at present.

In two tabular statements A and B appended to this part of the financial statement, I set forth in detail the estimates accepted for the expenditure in 1897, and compare them with the estimates of the same kind upon which the similar settlement was made in 1892. I may mention that we have not, or we practically have not, rejected any of the existing expenditure of the Provincial Governments as requiring to be disallowed, as we find that the increases of scale of expenditure are sufficiently moderate.

It is fair to the Local Governments to notice that part of the above increase of expenditure was that which was entailed upon them by the allowances given in compensation for fall of exchange.

An examination of the Revenue side of the account shewed the following result:

The Central Provinces have been hard hit by two or three bad seasons, and they have been disappointed in the increase of revenue which they might reasonably have expected. We found it necessary to assign them a slightly higher amount than they would have got had the 1892 settlement continued in force. Their balance has been absorbed by their necessary expenditure somewhat exceeding their revenue, and their misfortunes of the current year have, quite apart from famine, entirely swept away their available resources. We reckon that we enchance their assignment by Rx. 23,200 a year; and we have also to make up a small deficit in their balance.

Assam shows a fairly progressive revenue, but it is, as Sir E. Baring said in 1882, "a poor province with many wants." We find that we might, upon the present revision, reduce its assignment of Revenue by a small amount, say Rx. 11,400. But we have adjuged it better to leave the Province this amount of surplus.

Burma (that is, in the present connection, Lower Burma only) is a young and rapidly progressive province. Its revenue (mainly its Land Revenue) increased during the past quinquennium by 19·9 per cent, and its expenditure has increased as above shown by 13·3 per cent. The above figures are independent of its Railway revenue, the Burma railways having been, with a slight reservation, provincial up till now. The Railway part of the 1892 settlement has been very profitable to the Local Government, which has maintained very high, though decreasing, balances throughout the five years. It finishes the present contract with a balance of Rx. 234,300. We have thought it desirable for the present to deprovincialize the railways as they have now been made over to a company, and some questions remain to be settled regarding their future administration; but otherwise Burma is only a little worse off (say Rx. 9,000 a year) than if the 1892 settlement had continued in force.

The Chief Commissioner—or in future, Lieutenant-Governor—takes over now provincial responsibility for Upper Burma in the same way as for Lower. The Estimate of Expenditure is shewn in the penultimate column of Table B, and sufficient revenue has been assigned to meet it. I am afraid that the first effect of this will be to use up part of the high balance with which the Chief Commissioner starts under his new settlement, in paying for famine relief in his new province, and also possibly in meeting some temporary loss of revenue in it.

The Punjab is a politically important province, and it has shown during the last quinquennium only a moderate expansion of Revenue. The consequence is that its resources under the 1892 settlement have been found rather too narrow for the demands of its expenditure, and it has been obliged to reduce its Public Works grants somewhat below the needs of the province. Further the failure of Revenue in the current year has reduced its balance below the authorized minimum. We find that we place it in a fair financial position if we concede to it, in addition to the Revenue assigned in 1892, an allowance about equal to the expenditure imposed on it by exchange compensation; and, when the famine account is closed, we shall have to make to it also Central Provinces, a grant in recoupment of its exhausted balances.

In the provinces with which I have as yet been dealing, we did not expect, and we did not wish, to make a profit to the general account by reducing the amount of Revenue assigned to the Local Governments. Our examination satisfied us that their expenditure was already on a sufficiently limited scale, and that the whole, or nearly the whole, of the revenues assigned to them could be properly left at their disposal.

But we have also in the case of these provinces

nals another arrangement to their advantage. The revenues assigned for Provincial use are, as is well known, certain shares of the various heads of Revenue. These shares in the larger Provinces of Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Madras are about equal, on the whole, to their net expenditure; but in the smaller ones, where the expenditure naturally bears a larger proportion to the revenue, they require to be supplemented by a grant which under present arrangements is a fixed amount. While the revenues increase, this fixed amount does not, and it thus results that, whereas in the big provinces, if the revenue increases by five per cent., the Local Governments have the power (temporarily or permanently, as the case may be) of increasing their expenditure by five per cent., yet in the smaller provinces an increase of revenue by five per cent. only permits an increase of expenditure by, say, three per cent. This is the reverse of what ought to be, for the irresistable demands in the new provinces are proportionally greater than in the old ones. We have therefore in the newer provinces enhanced the shares of some of the assigned revenues, by reducing *per contra* the fixed amounts granted in addition to the variable shares. In this way we have given the Punjab 4 and the Central Provinces 5, of its Land Revenue, instead of 25 only. In Burma, which, with Upper Burma now added, has a very large expenditure as compared with its revenue, and also probably considerable demands, and from which we have for to present withdrawn the Railway Revenue, we have found it necessary, in pursuance of this purpose, the raise the share of Land Revenue as high as two-thirds, and we have given it also half its Excise instead of one-quarter only.

The state of provincial finance in the North-Western Provinces had begun to give us anxiety, even before the outbreak of famine. Sir E. Baring in 1892 pronounced (Financial Statement of 1892, paragraph (55), as the result of an enquiry made under his orders, that nowhere in India is a reduction of taxation more required than in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh; and he took certain measures for that reduction which, for reasons fully explained in this Council at the time, were partly reversed in 1889. It is therefore perhaps not unnatural that the Revenue of these Provinces has shewn very little expansiveness. There is a certain advance in its Land Revenue as districts come under resettlement, but it is rather backward, or at any rate non-progressive, in respect of Excise and other Revenue. At all events its revenue from 1892 to 1897 has advanced only about 2 per cent.,—much less than that of any other Province.

Now, the settlement of 1892 left the North-Western Provinces with less of revenue that was necessary for its standard of expenditure. The reasons for this I need not mention, but it was intended that five lakhs of its admitted expenditure should be met by reduction of balance.

There is also one feature peculiar to the North-Western Provincial account. It is dependent to the extent of 30 or 35 lakhs of rupees a year upon the net revenue of irrigation canals. Now, one year, very recently, there were unusually good cold weather rains, and the people did not want water from the canals; the result was that the Government of the North-Western Provinces lost 20 lakhs upon its irrigation account, and I need not say that no Provincial account can stand a loss of that magnitude. True, in this last year of drought, the 20 lakhs have come back to it in the Irrigation account, but the losses under Land Revenue and other heads are so enormous as to swamp this particular gain, and the North-Western Provinces account finishes this year, without reckoning any famine charges, with a debtor balance of Rx. 200,800 which of course we have to make up by a grant out of Imperial. Grants like this, I may remark, are not shown on the face of our accounts; they are made by redistributing the Land Revenue between the Imperial and Provincial columns.

We have carefully reviewed the requirements of the Province in the way of expenditure, and we have come to the conclusion that we must enhance its assignment by nearly as much again as the five lakhs by which the assignments of 1892 fell short of the admitted standard of expenditure.

We have, in addition to this, made it a grant of four laks for the year 1897-98 to enable the Lieutenant-Governor to establish his District Funds on a financially independent basis; this step, which has been long ago accomplished in every other Province in India, not having yet been carried out in the North-Western Provinces.

We come now to the important and wealthy maritime Provinces of Bengal, Madras and Bombay, towards which the commercial wealth and the industrial progress of India tend to accumulate. To them we naturally look for obtaining the means for that redistribution of resources which, to again quote Sir E. Baring's Financial Statement of 1882, is one of the objects of the quinquennial revisions. "It is indeed obvious," he said, "that in view of the manifold demands on the Imperial treasury, and the necessity for affording relief to provinces whose means are straitened, the Government of India cannot forego all its claims on the increments of revenue which arise from the growing wealth and prosperity of the country." The mention of the balances of the Provincial Account in these three great provinces, to a 31st March 1892 onwards, will show that they may reasonably expect, with a slightly smaller assignment of revenue than at present, to continue their past career of financial prosperity. The Balances in Bengal were, in lakhs of rupees, 23½, 22½, 24, 43, 53; in Madras 42, 24, 29, 33½, 43; in Bombay 41, 35, 40, 30, 40; and since in each case the Local Government was at liberty to estimate for the expenditure of all excess over 20 lakhs, it may be taken that their present scale of expenditure is not the result of any specially enforced economy.

We have carefully examined both the revenue and the expenditure of each of these Provinces, and we propose to allow in the present assignment for the actually existing scale of expenditure. In stating the increase of Revenue for Bengal, the Railway Revenue, alluded to below, is left out of account; and the figures for Madras and Bombay are based on the estimates made by the Government of India before the diminution caused by famine and plague.

To a small extent in Madras, namely, in respect of its land revenue, the assignment of revenue is provisional and will be settled next cold weather. In the case of Bombay, we have had to postpone the final settlement also of Excise, Stamps, and Forests. But even with these heads remaining open for final determination next year, the settlement is sufficiently complete to be the basis of the exercise by the Local Government of provincial financial powers.

As regards the effect on the provincial accounts, as compared with that of a continuation of the present assignments, the facts are—

(1) In Bengal we resume a special grant which fluctuated with the earnings of the Eastern Bengal Railway (which is not under Provincial Administration), and we give Rx. 253,400 in lieu of it. The Railway grant was given in 1892 as the equivalent of Rx. 320,000, though, if renewed now on the same terms, it would be worth to the Lieutenant-Governor very much more.

(2) In Madras the assignment is less than that of the 1892 settlement by Rx. 93,200 or Rx. 133,200, according as the Local Government's estimate of Land Revenue or that of the Government of India is ultimately adopted.

(3) In Bombay it is quite impossible to say what the difference is. If the Revenue in the future is to be as seriously reduced as the Government of Bombay estimates, the new settlement is practically a continuation of the old one. But we hope, when present troubles are over, to find the standard of Revenue much higher than the Government of Bombay puts it.

It is necessary to add a few words as to the manner in which the provincial accounts are affected by the famine expenditure. The established policy in such cases is that Local Funds must first be called upon to bear all the expenditure they reasonably can bear, and so "direct their whole resources, subject only to the maintenance of absolutely necessary works in non-affected tracts, to afford relief;" thereafter the Local Governments must meet the demands upon them out of their provincial balances. At the point where these are reduced below the standard required as working balances for the provincial financial administrations, the Imperial Government has to step in, and bear the rest of the burden which, in the case of a great famine, is necessarily by far the largest share of it.

In the Central and North-Western Provinces the provincial balances, as already explained, are more than exhausted by reason of failure of revenue. In these cases not only will Imperial have to bear all the charges of famine, but it will have to make up, in addition, the deficit in the provincial balance.

Bombay is nearly as bad—its provincial account has been hard hit by loss of revenue. It can bear, in provincial and in local account, only a few lakhs out of its famine expenditure, and all the rest has to be borne by imperial.

Madras is fortunatey only slightly affected by famine, and its revenues have suffered very little. Between its provincial and its local balances it will be able to bear the whole, or nearly the whole, of its famine expenditure.

In Upper Burma the famine expenditure, which is only 5 or 7 lakhs in each year, will be charged to imperial this year and to provincial next.

In Bengal only a small area is affected, and the general condition of the Province, as reflected in its revenue account, is one of prosperity. Its high balance which, if it had no famine expenditure to bear would, on 31st March, 1897, stand at Rx. 595,700, will be largely dispersed during this and next year by heavy famine expenditure. This sounds a little harder upon Bengal than it really is; for, as a matter of fact, this high balance is the produce not of any provincial revenues in the ordinary sense, but of the Imperial grant out of Railway revenues, not under Bengal administration, which three successive good jute seasons have so enhanced as to give the Province a profit, in the three last years, of Rx. 353,500. But I am afraid that this consideration will afford little consolation to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for the financial misfortune which has overtaken both his finance and mine.

As the estimates stand, after all the charges for famine are thus distributed, the provincial balances are shewn upon 31st March 1898, as follows:—

	Rx.		Rx.
Central Provinces ...	Nil.	North-Western Provinces.	Nil.
Burma	110,900	Punjab	35,000
Assam	35,000	Madras	100,000
Bengal	100,000	Bombay	49,000

These will require some adjustment to the necessities of the several provinces, when we come to the end of the year; for the provinces cannot be left without a safe working balance at the very least. What this adjustment will be it is unnecessary now to discuss, for, as already explained, the estimates of famine outlay, though the best we can make, are very far from trustworthy, and the actual expenditure is determined by circumstances quite outside any control of ours. We therefore must wait until we can approximately close the accounts of the famine, and of its immediate disasters to revenue which it brings in its train.

RAILWAY CONSTUCTION.

In the last financial statement I mentioned that the question of Railway extension was under the general consideration of the Government. A programme involving considerable outlay was explained to the Council by his Excellency the Viceroy on the Budget discussion on March 25th; and the question had been carefully considered in correspondence with the Secretary of State, how to raise the necessary money for the outlay, as the amount required went beyond the capacity of the Indian Money Market.

At the beginning of the year the Secretary of State gave formal approval to a programme of Railway construction, either direct by Government or by companies acting under guarantee of the Government, which covered about Rx. 23,000,000 of Railway expenditure to be spread over three years, of which 1896-97 was the first. For this 23 crores of expenditure we were to raise in India as much money as we thought we could conveniently borrow, and the rest was to be raised in England, either directly by the Secretary of State or by companies acting under agreements with him. But the amount of 23 crores thus arranged for does not include the transactions of certain companies whose relations with Government do not involve a direct guarantee by the latter, and which work under special terms (like the Bengal and North-Western Railway) or under what are known as Branch Line terms. Nor does it include certain small transactions on provincial account which are charged to revenue.

The operations thus fall into three categories namely:—

I.—State Railway Construction, for which money is found by Government aided by capital or debenture s raised by two companies,—the East Indian Railway company and the Assam-Bengal Railway Company.

II.—Construction by companies, under contract with Government, out of funds raised by the companies, but supplemented in two cases by funds advanced at interest by the Government.

III.—Construction by companies out of their own funds and outside the Government accounts; and also construction by Branch Line companies.

There is a fourth category, *viz.*, the old guaranteed companies; and though some negotiations are pending in respect of new capital construction by them, they are not further alluded to in these figures.

The East Indian and Assam-Bengal are State Railways in the hands of companies who have power to raise debentures, and in the case of the Assam-Bengal Company share capital also, in sterling, for construction purposes. The capital and debentures raised by these companies are of course appropriated to their particular lines; but to the extent to which the raising of the money is in advance of its expenditure, the capital so raised diminishes for the time the total amount of construction for which money has to be charged direct on the Government account of capital construction.

The above money has been appropriated to the following construction, in which I have omitted separate specification of the smaller items:—

	Rx.	Rx.
State Agency—Open Lines—		
North Western	135,000	37,000
Eastern Bengal	413,000	322,500
Other Lines	76,000	73,200
State Agency—Construction—		
Burma	168,000	...
East Coast	29,800	65,000
Godaveri Bridge ...	...	185,000
Rae Bareli Benares	257,100	432,500
Mari Attock	373,700	300,000
Mushkaf Bolan	2,020	...
Kotri Rohri	420,100	211,000
Bezwada Madras	811,000	800,000
Southern Punjab	...	25,000
Other Lines	92,500	220,000
Companies' Agency—Open Lines—		
East Indian	881,000	1,20,000
Tirhoot	21,100	110,000
Other Lines	51,100	135,500
Companies' Agency—Construction—		
Assam Bengal	1,170,600	1,33,000
Tirhoot extensions	22,000	600,000
Other line	—500	...
Unappropriated	...	455,200
Total ...	5,467,700	6,700,000

The following is a statement of the principal items of expenditure include l in this list:—

Eastern Bengal.—1896-97; Doubling of the line north of Ranaghat. 1897-98; Additional rolling-stock.

Burma.—This line was transferred to a company, that is, to the second category, from September 1, 1896, and the further expenditure after that date is shewn there.

East Coast.—Is open for traffic from Bezwada to Cuttack, except the Godaveri Bridge.

Godaveri Bridge.—A commencement is being made of this work, which is to cost about 55 lakhs and will take two years to construct.

Rae Bareli-Benares.—The expenditure shewn will complete the line and open it for traffic.

Mari-Attock.—Will be approaching completion at end of 1897-98.

Mushka Bolan.—Finished, including double line on the 1 in 25 gradients.

Kotri-Rohri.—1896-97; Open for traffic, excluding the Indus Bridge at Kotri. 1897-98; The Bridge will be completed.

Bezwada-Madras.—Will be approaching completion at the end of 1897-98.

Southern Punjab.—The expenditure is for the provision of rolling-stock which falls upon the Government.

East Indian.—The expenditure is upon the Mogul-Sarai to Gya Branch, and for additional rolling-stock.

Assam-Bengal.—Open from Chittagong to Badarpore, and for 75 miles from Gauhati. The expenditure is chiefly on the hill section and on the northern section.

The following are the principal items of expenditure:—

Bengal and North-Western.—The Ganges-Gogra Doab branch lines, and other minor extensions, of which 250 miles will be opened by end of 1897-98. The Gogra Bridge at Babraighat, also to be opened by end of 1897-98. The Gogra Bridge at Tartipur only commenced.

South Behar.—Approaching completion by end of 1897-98.

Southern Punjab.—Expected to be opened about October or November 1897.

Tapti Valley.—Commenced.

REMITTANCE AND DEBT.

The following account shews in a shortened form the requirements of the Secretary of State; the figures are drawn up so as to shew separately the transactions on account of Government, and transactions arising out of the operations of railway companies:—

Requirements on Government Account—	Revised. 1896-97. £	Budget. 1897-98. £
Excess of expenditure on Revenue Account	15,561,200	15,915,500
Expenditure not charged to Revenue	1,095,500	1,083,100
Net payments on Remittance Accounts, etc.	41,100	226,600
Total Requirements ...	16,700,800	17,225,200
Transactions of Railway Companies—		
Net receipts on account of Capital ...	3,867,300	2,155,500
Payments for Stores, etc.	2,126,700	3,223,700
Net Receipts	1,740,600	...
Net Outgoings	...	818,200
Net Funds required ...	14,960,300	18,043,400

The following figures shew the manner in which the above requirements have been or are to be financed:—

	Revised. 1896-97. £	Budget. 1897-98. £
By Council Bills	15,300,000	13,000,000
By addition to Permanent Debt	800,000	3,500,000
Temporary Debt—		
Reduction	—1,000,000	...
Addition	...	1,000,000
By reduction of Cash Balance	860,300	543,400
Total ...	14,960,300	18,043,400

It will be seen that railway companies took advantage of cheap money to raise a large amount of capital during 1896-97, and the amounts provided for in the Budget was enhanced by a new arrangement made in the course of the year for the transfer of the Burma Railways to a company: these receipts on Capital Account enabled the Secretary of State not only to meet with ease the reduction imposed on his drawings and alluded to in paragraph 33 above, but also to pay off a million of temporary debt without renewing it.

The transaction in permanent debt in 1896-97 was the raising of a new loan, India 2½ per cent. stock £2,400,000, which was used to pay off debentures nearly equal in amount.

For next year the requirements of the Secretary of State are considerably enhanced, as he has now to meet heavy charges of the railway companies against the capital accumulated in 1896-97. On the other hand, our means of meeting his drawings in India are greatly limited, both by reason of the adverse circumstances of the year in respect of famine expenditure and by reason of the heavy railway programme of expenditure. This last, as already fully explained, includes not only an unusually large amount of railway construction on Government account, but also heavy outlay of railway companies, partly against these same receipts of Capital in last year's account.

We intend to supplement our resources in India by borrowing four crores of rupees; but as will be seen from the Ways and Means Account in India in Part II of this Statement, we estimate that we will not be able, even with this, to meet more than £13,000,000 of drawings during the year.

The Secretary of State is therefore obliged to have recourse to borrowing, and his present intention is to raise £3,500,000 of permanent debt, besides restoring the £1,000,000 by which in the current year he has diminished the temporary debt.

These announcements of the amounts of Council Bill drawings and of debt to be raised are made with the usual reservation of entire liberty to the

Secretary of State to vary the amounts as he may find occasion.

Before passing from this subject I note that the year 1896-97 is remarkable as being the first in which the Government of India have secured for themselves the full benefit of the general reduction in the rate of interest. For the first time India sterling stock has been raised in England at 2½ per cent., and Indian rupee debt has been raised at 2 per cent., a premium having been obtained in each case. Moreover, we have also, in the contract for the transfer of the Burma Railways to a Company, been able for the first time to make the arrangements on the basis of a 2½ per cent. guarantee.

CONCLUSION.

I concluded my statement last year with expressing the view that our financial prospects were "now very much more hopeful," although I "refrained from any prophecies as to the future." Our prospects are for the present marred by the occurrence of widespread famine, and of pestilence which is as yet confined within a narrow area. I can only now express the hope that a year hence these disasters will have passed away: and that as the deficits I am now obliged to declare are certainly much smaller than the losses due to famine and scarcity, we shall, when relieved from these misfortunes, resume that financial progress which they have interrupted.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

In the Budget Estimate of 1896-97 the net disbursements of the Home Treasury, excluding Loans and Council Bills, were taken at £17,917,200: it was proposed to provide £16,500,000 of this by the sale of Bills on India, and to meet £1,330,900 by a reduction of cash balances. Owing to the heavy loss of Land Revenue caused by the scarcity in November and December last, and the large expenditure on Famine Relief during this cold weather, the Secretary of State, at the request of the Government of India, reduced the scale of his drawings, and it is now expected that the total drawings in the current year will be less than the original estimate by £1,200,000. The cash balances in the Home Treasury on the 1st April 1896 were also less than the estimate by £400,926, owing mainly to a decrease in the drawings at the end of 1895-96. The total reduction in Council Bills thus amounted to £1,600,926. On the other hand, the net disbursements during 1896-97 are expected to be lower than the original estimate by £2,955,900, in consequence chiefly of large receipts from Railway Companies. The new Burma Railway Company has paid in subscribed capital to the extent of £1,833,500, and the East Indian Railway Company has issued additional debentures for £400,000. There have also been the usual savings on the Estimates of Expenditure both by the Government and the Railway Companies. This improvement in his cash balance enables the Secretary of State to discharge without replacing £1,000,000 out of the £2,500,000 of the twelve months' India Bills which fell due this year. The payment of that £1,000,000 reduces the cash balance of March 31, 1897, so that it will exceed the Budget Estimate by £350,874 only.

STERLING LOANS.

No increase to the sterling debt has been made in 1896-97, but in accordance with the intention announced in paragraph 173 of the last Financial Statement, India Stock for £2,400,000 were issued in April 1896 in order to discharge £2,000,000 India Debentures and £313,700 South Indian Railway Debentures. Taking advantage of the favourable state of the money market, the Secretary of State decided to issue the new Stock at 2½ per cent, and tenders for the loan were invited on April 28, 1896. The result was satisfactory: the total amount tendered was more than £6,000,000; the average rate at which the loan was raised was £103 0s. 9d. per cent, and the minimum rate of accepted tenders £102 10s. 0d.

TEMPORARY DEBT.

It was the original intention to issue an equivalent amount of new India Bills to repay temporary debt (India Bills) falling due in the year; but, as above explained, it has not been necessary to do this to the full amount, and according to the present programme only £1,500,000 will be raised and £2,500,000 discharged during the year, the additional £1,000,000 being met from cash balances.

CAPITAL OF RAILWAY COMPANIES.

The net issues to Railway Companies during 1896-97 were taken in the Budget Estimates at £923,100, but it is now estimated that there will be a net receipt from the Companies of £1,546,200.

Of the total new capital of £2,949,000 entered in the Budget Estimate, the sum of £1,732,900 was intended for discharge of debentures, leaving £1,216,100 as required for expenditure. As usually happens, some of the debentures have been renewed instead of being discharged, but the new capital for expenditure according to the Revised Estimate amounts to £3,065,400. This large increase of £1,849,300 over the Budget Estimate is due to the formation of a new Company to take up the Burma Railway from September 1, 1896. As already stated in paragraph 200, the total receipts from this Company on account of subscribed capital are estimated at £1,833,500.

The requirements of the Railway Companies for stores, establishment charges, etc., were overestimated, and the programmes of the Companies are always liable to important changes.

RAILWAY COMPANIES' REMITTANCES.

The Railway Companies whose transactions are above dealt with have separate capital deposit accounts in England, and funds withdrawn in England are directly brought to account at the Home Treasury. But closely connected with these are the Remittance transactions of Railway Companies working State lines in India, such as the East Indian, the South Indian, and the Rajputana-Malwa Railways. Advances are made to these Companies in England for the purchase of stores, etc., and the advances adjusted in India by debit to the Revenue Accounts of the lines, but funds raised for Capital Expenditure by the East Indian Railway Company under the authority of the East Indian Railway Company's Act are also treated as remittances. The estimate of the remittances of the Companies was taken at £117,200 in the Budget Estimate, but in the Revised Estimate there is entered a net receipt in England of £194,300.

The net improvement in the receipts of £311,500 is due to the issue of £400,000 additional debentures by the East Indian Railway Company.

FAMILY AND OTHER REMITTANCES.

The net payments on account of family and other remittances from India will be £150,700 less than the Budget Estimate, owing mainly to the recovery from Her Majesty's Imperial Government of the extra charges connected with the employment of Indian Native Troops at Suakin.

HOME TREASURY WAYS AND MEANS.

The net disbursements at the Home Treasury in 1897-98, excluding loans and Council Bills, are estimated at £18,043,400 It is not, however possible for the Government of India to supply the whole of this amount by means of Council Bills next year, and the Secretary of State has, with reference to the probable famine requirements in India, and to the expenditure on railway construction, reduced his estimate of drawings to £13,000,000. The reduced drawings will be supplemented by a sterling loan of £3,500 000 to be raised by the issue of India Stock and by a temporary loan of £2,000,000, of which £1,000,000, will replace a like amount of India Bills issued in the current year, and the other 1,000,000 will replace the amount of India Bills which it was possible, as above explained, to discharge without replacement this year. The last amount will be additional debt so far as the year 1897-98 is concerned.

According to the programme now announced the net disbursements of the Home Treasury will be met, in the year 1897-98, by the sale of Bills on India of £13,000,000, by the creation of additional sterling debt to the extent of £4,500,000, and by a reduction in the cash balances of £543,400.

It should be understood that in stating the present intentions of the Secretary of State no sort of pledge is given that he will adhere to the programme.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The following is a summary of the Estimate of Ways and Means in India:—

	1896-97		1897-98
	Budget.	Revised.	Budget.
Receipts.			
1. Excess of Revenue in India over the Expenditure charged against it	Rx. 27,923,300	Rx. 23,844,700	Rx 23,955,700
2. Rupee loan	4,000,000	6,048,700	4,000,000
3. Increase of the Unfunded Debt, mostly Savings Bank deposits, net	371,100	—317,300	502,400
4. Other items, net	474,500	—655,700	21,700
5. *For Remittance to Secretary of State, net*—			
(a) Railway Companies' Remittances	117,200	—194,300	500,500
(b) Other Remittances	178,300	50,800	213 000
Add—Opening Balance	16,500,488	16,500,510	13 465,810
Total	50,02 ,888	45,277,410	42,6 9,1 0
Outgoings.			
6. Excess Expenditure Charged to provincial Balances	886,400	1,228,500	1,190,000
7. Expenditure not charged to Revenue	4,080,000	2,738,800	4,790,300
8. Rupee debt discharged	275,000	717,000	575,100
9. Loans to Municipalities, etc., net	406,100	764,700	245,400
10. *Issues on Capital Account to Railway Companies, net*	1.526,400	961,600	956,300
11. Council Bills—*Sterling Amount*	16,503,400	15,288,300	13,025,300
12. Do. Exchange	1 ,236,6 0	10, 09, 00	8,5 4, 0
Add—Closing Balance	14,0 5,988	13,4 5,8 0	13,3 1,710
Total	50,029,888	45,277,410	42,659,110

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The net Revenues in India were taken in the Budget Estimate of 1896-97 at Rx. 27,923,300, but owing to heavy loss of Revenue and increase in Expenditure caused by the famine, they are now estimated to yield only Rx. 23,844,700. This large deficiency of Rx. 4,033,600 in the Revenues is further increased by withdrawals from the Savings Banks and increased loans for famine relief purposes. The Savings Bank transactions are expected to result in a netwithdrawal of Rx. 241,100 against a net receipt of Rx.750,300 entered in the Budget Estimate and the net amount of loans will exceed that estimate by Rx. 358,000. The total diminution of the cash balances under the three heads mentioned thus amounts to Rx. 5,434,100. The deficiency is met chiefly by a reduction in Council Bill payments of Rx. 3,4 2,0.0 and the issue of a loan, not contemplated in the Budget Estimates, for Rx. 2,048,700 for the investment of two crores of the Currency Reserve. The year is now expected to close with a cash balance of Rx. 13,465,810.

MAIN FEATURES.

The important disbursements—in India and England taken together—for which we have to provide in 1897-98, otherwise than from the Revenues of the year, are (1) the deficit in the Revenue Account both on Imperial and Provincial Account, (2) the Capital Expenditure of Government not charged to Revenues, and (3) the advances to Railway Companies for Capital Expenditure. The deficit in the Revenue Accounts, including the expenditure of the Provincial Governments from balances, is estimated at Rx. 3,754,000. The total estimate of Capital Expenditure by the Government not charged to Revenue amounts to Rx. 6,583,000 including Rx. 1,130,700 on account of the Assam-Bengal Railway, Rx. 537,900 for the East Indian Railway, and Rx. 600,000 for the Tirhoot Railway Extension; and we have undertaken to advance in 1897-98 Rx. 1,174,500 to the Indian Midland and Bengal-Nagpur Railways for expenditure in India on new extensions. The total of the disbursements above mentioned amounts to Rx. 11,417,100. Our cash balances are now reduced to as low a level as is consistent with requirement in the months of minimum balance—November and December—, and they cannot be drawn upon to meet any substantive portion of the above sum. We must, therefore, have recourse to loans; and it is intended to raise Rx 4,000,000 by a rupee loan in India, and to meet the remainder of the liability by the sterling loans in England mentioned in paragraph 205, the Secretary of State's drawings being reduced.

RUPEE LOAN OF 1896-97.

It was announced in paragraph 178 of the last Financial Statement that a new loan of Rx. 4,000,000 would be raised in India in 1896-97. This loan was issued on June 22, and tenders for it were received on July 22. The favourable state of the money market at the time enabled the Government to issue the loan at 3 per cent., and in spite of the reduced rate of interest the average price of the loan was Rs. 103-1-10½ per cent.

CONVERSION AND DISCHARGE OF UNGUARANTEED 3½ PER CENT. LOANS.

As the price of the new 3 per cent. loan remained above par for some time after its issue it was decided to offer the balance of the unguaranteed 3½ per cent. loans, amounting to Rx 5,684,950, for conversion into the new loan. Accordingly, by Notification No. 3850, dated September 4, 1896, the 3½ per cent. loans of 1853-54 and 1893-94 were notified for discharge on January 30, 1897, and the option was given to holders of notes of the 3½ per cent. loans to tender them for transfer to the 3 per cent. loan of 1896-97 by October 2, 1896. The amount of the 3½ per cent. loans transferred to 3 per cents in exercise of this option was Rx. 4,887,160, leaving Rx. 797,790 to be discharged. Provision has been made in the present estimates for the discharge of Rx. 360,000 in 1896-97 and Rx. 350,000 in 1897-98.

ADDITION TO CURRENCY INVESTMENT.

The question of increasing the investment of the Government Currency Reserve by 2 crores of rupees had been considered by the Government last year, and it was in contemplation to make the necessary change in the Paper Currency Act in the present session. As soon as it was ascertained towards the middle of October that the famine would entail heavy loss of Revenue and increase in Expenditure, we were compelled to ask the Secretary of State to reduce his drawings. The Secretary of State announced the necessary reduction, and this, combined with low Government balances and other causes, produced considerable tightness in the money market in November and December. To relieve this tightness by making available to the commercial public through increased Council Bill drawings and through the Presidency Banks the additional two crores which the measure would set free from the Currency Reserve, Act XXI of 1896 was passed on December 17, and Government Promissory Notes for Rx. 2,048,650 of the 3 per cent. loan were issued to the Currency Department on December 18, 1896: see Notifications Nos. 5366 and 5367 of the latter date.

NEW RUPEE LOAN.

The balance of the 3 per cent. loan on 31st March 1897 will be Rx. 10,945,830, and, as already stated, it is the present intention to increase that balance by the issue of a new loan for Rx. 4,000,000 in 1897-98. Although this is the present intention, full liberty is reserved, as usual, to alter the programme, as now announced, to any extent that may be considered desirable.

The high price of food-grain and the prevalence of distress have probably caused withdrawals from Savings Banks in the current year. It should be noted, however, that Rx. 230,000 of net additions in 1895-96, and the same amount of net withdrawals of 1896-97, should be taken against each other, both transactions on account of a large Provident Fund which for a time was held on Savings Bank Account. Corrected for this the figures for the three years stand—

	Rx.
1894-95	—84,500
1895-96	+17,500
1896-97, Revised	—359,600

For 1897-98 no increase in the net deposits of Post Office Savings Banks is anticipated; but the normal additions to the several departmental Provident Funds are taken into account.

LOANS BY GOVERNMENT.

The net issues on account of loans by the Government to Municipalities, etc., in 1896-97 are now expected to be Rx. 764,700 against Rx. 406,100 entered in the Budget Estimate—an increase of Rx. 358,600. The increase is the difference between the increases in the gross advances of Rx. 436,800 and in the recoveries of Rx. 78,200. The increased advances represent loans to agriculturists and others in provinces affected by famine and scarcity: the additional grants for such advances sanctioned by the Government of India during the year amounted to Rx. 663,000. Provision has been made in the Budget Estimate of 1897-98 for net issues on account of loans to the extent of Rx. 245,400. According to estimates furnished by the several Local Governments, large amounts may be usefully spent in the provinces by Municipalities and other Local Bodies on drainage and water-works, but the Government of India have not been able to provide for the whole of the requirements out of the balances in 1897-98. This inability is due to the fact that we are obliged to provide fully, as a first claim upon our resources, for the whole amount of advances and loans required in connection with the famine and plague, and that after providing for such requirements there is no margin of available funds to lend to Local Bodies for ordinary works of public improvement. If funds are urgently required for such works in 1897-98, the local authorities concerned will, it is hoped, be able to raise them directly in the open market.

CASH BALANCE.

The year 1897-98 is estimated to close with a cash balance in the Indian Treasuries of Rx. 13,321,710, which is less than the opening balance of the year by Rx. 144,100 only.

SUMMARY.

The principal features in this Statement are—

(1) The accounts of 1895-96 closed with a surplus of Rx. 1,553,998.

(2) The Revised Estimates of 1896-97 show a deficit of Rx. 1,946,900. The cause of the deficit is the failure of the monsoon and the consequent scarcity and famine. There is a direct expenditure on Famine Relief of Rx 1,946,700: the scarcity has also caused a loss of Land Revenue of Rx. 2,432,100, a loss of Railway Revenue of Rx. 1,423,000, and smaller losses under other heads of Revenue, as well as increases of expenditure under many of the ordinary heads. In Bombay the plague has been added to the famine and joined with it in bringing about these losses. In addition, there is a loss of opium Revenue of Rx. 503,600 caused by a fall in the price realised for Bengal opium and a reduction in the exports of Malwa opium. On the other hand, the rise in the rate of exchange from 13 3/4d. to 14 3/16d. the rupee secures a saving of Rx. 1,329,700 in the exchange on sterling payments.

(3) The Budget estimates of 1897-98 show a deficit of Rx. 2,464,000. The famine accounts for this deficit also.

(4) The expenditure on Famine Relief is estimated at Rx. 3,641,200; the loss of Land Revenue at Rx. 433,500; the loss of Railway Revenue at Rx. 901,300; and the famine also causes other losses of Revenue and increases of Expenditure.

(5) The loss of Opium Revenue amounts to Rx. 1,079,100.

(6) The rise in the rate of exchange from 13 3/4d. to 14 3/16d. the rupee will secure a saving of Rx. 1,330,000 in the exchange on sterling payments, as well as savings in the pay of the British troops and in the cost of Exchange Compensation Allowances. There will also be a considerable reduction in the Military expenditure, as the heavy expenditure on preparations for mobilization, which was specially provided for in 1896-97, will not recur.

(7) The Capital Expenditure on Railways is expected to be as follows:—

	1896-97 Rx.	1897-98. Rx.
On State Railways (including expenditure on the East Indian Railway and the Assam Benga Railway from capital raised by the Companies)	5,767,700	6,700,000
On Railways of the Companies under contract with the Government from funds raised by them	2,930,600	3,430,000
On Railways of Companies outside the Government Accounts, and Branch Lines	2,470,250	3 283,800
	11,2 8,550	13,413,800

(8) It is expected that the Secretary of State will sell Council Bills for £15,300,000 in 1896-97 and for £13,000,000 in 1897-98.

(9) In 1896-97 the Secretary of State raised a loan of £2,400,000 by the issue of 2½ per cent. India Stock to discharge debentures which fell due; and he paid off India Bills falling due in the year for £2,500,000, and issued India Bills for £1,500,000. In 1897-98 he intends to raise a loan of £3,500,000 by the issue of India Stock, to issue India Bills for £2,000,000, and to pay off India Bills falling due for £1,000,000. These announcements are accompanied by the usual reservation of entire liberty to the Secretary of State to vary the amounts to be obtained by Bills or raised by loans, as he may find occasion.

(10) The Government of India raised a public loan of Rx. 4,000,000 in 1896-97 at 3 per cent., and also issued new 3 per cent. paper to the Head Commissioner of Paper Currency for the investment of Rx. 2,000,000 of the Currency Reserve authorised by Act XXI of 1896 passed on December 17. It is intended to raise a loan for Rx. 4,000,000 in 1897-98. Full liberty is, however, reserved to the Government of India to vary this intention in any way and to any extent which may be expedient. The 3½ per cent. loan of 1893-94 was successfully converted to 3 per cent. in 1896-97.

(11) The Government of India are for the time in serious financial difficulties caused by the famine. When that calamity and the plague in Bombay and Sind shall have passed away, the Government will, it is hoped, be found to be in a strong financial position.

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BOMBAY BANK AND STOCK LIST.

BANKS.

	Shares.	Amount.	Paid-up.	Last Half-Yearly Divid.	Cash Rate.
INDIAN BANKS.					
Bank of Bombay	20,000	200	all	1 bon.	1,340
Bank of Bengal	40,000	150	all	10 pr. c.	1,75
Bank of Madras	10,000	100	all	15 pr. c.	1,330
Commercial & Ld. Mgn ...	{ 10,000 / 15,000 }	100	{ 100 / 75 }	16. c.	142
EXCHANGE BANKS.					
Agra	100,000	£10	all	5 pr. ct.	80
Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China	40,000	£20	£10	7 pr. ct.	22
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ...	80,000	$125	all	21-30,	241
National Bank of India ...	40,000	£25	£12½	8 pr. ct.	370
PRESIDENCY COMPANIES.					
Do. Akbar	1800	1,250	1,800	Yearly 75	1,192
Albert Spinning Co	100	500	all	15 pr. ct	45
Albert (Kurrachee) Co. ...	200	1,100	1,100	Rs 80	1,15
Bollary	187	1,000	1,000	dvd 14 x	22
Bombay Unlimited	900	1,000	1,000	1vdRs.45	585
Bombay Cotton Manfg. Co ...	4,000	125	125	3v Rs12½	155
Bombay Commercial	900	300	300	1	1871
Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Co., Ltd	6000	200	200	dvd Rs25	236
Bombay Native Cotton Manufacturing Co., Ltd	20,000	1,000	1,000	4vdRs45	365
Colaba	2,000	1,882	1,880	4vdRs45	365
Esmail Hajee	350	1,000	1,000	75	1,100
Eagles Press and Manfg ...	400	100	...	dvd Rs 8	93
Fort	1,000	1,500	750	25 pr. ct.	1,100
French	300	900	500	dvdRs30	540
Hajee Essack Sahebjoy	450	450	450	31 dvdRs60	350
Hindoo Press Co., Ltd	700	100	100	3vd Rs12	170
Khatau Makanji Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd	240	450	450	Rs60	630
Mahomed Hajee Essack Co., Ltd	300	300	all	16 pr. ct.	265
Mackintosh Burn & Co., Ltd	800	500	500	50	70
Mercantile	1,000	125	125	dvd Rs 4	75
Mofussil Co	5,125	410	400	dvd Rs20	330
Monsoor Mills	1,000	250	11	15	210
New Berar	1,200	500	500	dvd Rs60	620
New Indian	4,000	125	125	dvd Rs 5	133
Prince of Wales	100	500	300	3	475
Ravajeepatty Bellary	300	500	75	37	385
Swadeshi	800	500	500	20	58
Steel and Pasha Jah Co	150	1,000	4,000	200	1,25
Sind	400	9,000	750	50	530
Sarah Wooden Mills	1,800	200	150	NIL	75
Sassoon Mill Co., Ltd	1,800	1,000	1,000	3	1,475
Shahpoor Spinning Co., Ltd	1,000	1,000	1,000	4vdRs50	1,252
Queen Mills	800	1,000	1,000	4vdRs60	940
Ripon Mills	600	1,000	1,000	dvdRs65	1,210
Sassoon	1,000	1,000	1,000	4vdRs50	1,060
Shahapore Mill	800	1,000	1,000	dvdRs60	1,540
Soonderbai	750	1,000	1,000	4vdRs40	850
Southern India Spinning Co	1,000	500	500	15	125
Southern Mahratta	1,912	250	250	4vRs12½	353
Sun Mills, Ltd	1,800	250	250	4vdRs20	30
Standard Mills Co.	1,500	250	500	25	350
Star of India	1,000	1,000	1,000	Nil	680
Standard Mills	10,000	500	500	4vd Rs15	615
Swadeshi and Alliance	2,500	5	5	80. 4vdRs15	65.
Union Spinning and Manufacturing Co	900	1,000	1,000	80	52
Union Mills Ltd	1,800	1,000	1,000	4vdRs30	593
Wadia Manufacturing Co	800	500	900	4vdRs40	410.0
Victoria Mills	450	1,000	1,000	Nil	775
Western India	1,800	2,000	1,000	4vdRs30	90
Wallis Mills	1,000	1,000	1,000	—	—

SPINNING AND WEAVING COMPANIES.

Asiatic	1,930	1,193	all	Nil
Anglo-Indian	1,945	100	100	Nil
Arrasseball Spg. & Wg. Co., Ltd	8 8	1,000	1,000	60
Bellary S & W Co. Ld (Bombay)	871	0	all	1 per c
Bombay Unlimited	900	1,00	1,000	1vdRs.45
Bombay Cotton Manfg. Co ...	4,000	125	125	3v Rs12½
Bombay Native Manufg. Co., Ltd	20,000	1,000	1,000	4vdRs.30
Bombay Dyeing & Manufg. Co., Ltd	6000	200	200	dvd Rs25
Britannia Mills	1,000	500	500	dvdRs.50
Central India	1,000	500	500	dvdRs.50
China Mills Co Ld	850	1,000	1,000	1vd Rs.
City of Bombay Mills	800	1,000	1,000	1vd Rs.5
Colaba Land & Mills	4,000	100	100	9 per ct.
Colaba	2,000	700	700	dvd Rs12
Coorla Mills	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.60
Carnatic Co Mill	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.60
David Sassoon	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.60
Dhin Mills	1,000	1,000	1,000	3
Empress	2,100	500	500	dvd 25
Empress Spg.	1,200	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs60
Indusian	873	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs 5
Jam Nagpal Mills	700	500	500	4
Howard and Wallonbie	1,800	500	500	3
Hope Mills	500	500	1,000	50
Hyderabad	900	1,000	1,000	60
Imperial	900	500	500	dvd Rs.15
Indian Manufacto-Co Ltd	900	1,000	1,000	50
Jamsee Greaves Jeejee Alli	700	1,000	1,000	4vdRs.50
Jam-shed Manufacturing Co. ...	1,800	250	250	dvd Rs10
Jeevanji Hajiloo	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.40
Jubilee Mills Co., Ld	943	1,000	1,000	20
Khandesh Spg. & Weaving Co ...	750	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs20
Khatau Makanji Manufg. Co ...	400	25.	25.	Nil
Khatao Makanji Spg. & Weaving Co ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	1vd Rs30
Laxmi Cotton	2,500	100	125	1vdRs.10
Lord Reay Mfg. Co	444	1,000	1,000	30
Lakshmidhar Spinning & Weaving Co	1,100	1,000	1,000	30
Madras United Manufacture ...	835	1,000	1,000	dvRs.100
Manchester Mills	600	1,000	1,000	Nil
Mill s (Gujerat)	2,470	200	200	15 pr c
Manockjee Petit	4,000	1,000	1,000	dv Rs10
Manockjee Limited	2,000	250	250	dvd Rs 5
Monarji Goculdas	1,050	1,000	1,000	dvdRs75
Mysore S & M Co Ld	4,000	250	250	dvd 15
Madura Mills	7,770	100	100	Nil
National Mills	900	1,000	1,000	Nil
New Great Eastern	1,497	1,000	1,000	Rs 60
Oriental	9,735	625	625	dvdRs60
Oriental Spg. & Wg. Mills Co (Ltd).	743	1,000	1,000	dvdRs50
Queen Mills	800	1,000	1,000	4vdRs60
Ripon Mills	600	1,000	1,000	dvdRs65
Sassoon	1,000	1,000	1,000	4vdRs50
Shahapore Mill	800	1,000	1,000	dvdRs60
Soonderbai	750	1,000	1,000	4vdRs40
Southern India Spinning Co	1,000	500	500	15
Southern Mahratta	1,912	250	250	4vRs12½
Sun Mills, Ltd	1,800	250	250	4vdRs20
Standard Mills Co.	1,500	250	500	25
Star of India	1,000	1,000	1,000	Nil
Standard Mills	10,000	500	500	4vd Rs15
Swadeshi and Alliance	2,500	5	5	80. 4vdRs15
Union Spinning and Manufacturing Co	900	1,000	1,000	80
Union Mills Ltd	1,800	1,000	1,000	4vdRs30
Wadia Manufacturing Co	800	500	900	4vdRs40
Victoria Mills	450	1,000	1,000	Nil
Western India	1,800	2,000	1,000	4vdRs30
Wallis Mills	1,000	1,000	1,000	—

RAILWAY COMPANIES.

G. I. P. R. Consolidated stock	—	£100	all	5 p. c.
G. B. & C. Ry.	—	£ 18	—	4
Ahmedabad Prantej	4,000	500	400	
Do. Loan				580
Valloy	20,000	500	5	120

MISCELLANEOUS.

				Half yearly	
Alcock Ashdown	1,750	100	100	dvd Rs 15	325
Asiatic Fire Insurance Co Ld	20,000	1,000	100	—	12
Bombay Baths	5,000	5	50	1	1
Madhavji Pile	5,000	100	100	12	145
Bombay Fire Insurance Co. Ld	1,000	6,000	1,500	30	6,150
Do. New Ditto	800	375	625	75	1,600
Bombay Ice Mfg. Co., Ld.	2,25	100	100	dvd 3	69
Bombay Land and Building Co., Ld.	400	500	500	5 pr. ct	5 0
Bombay Flour Mill	4,000	500	500	6	1,125
Deccan Paper Mills	11,000	500	500	4 pr. ct	21
Imlach and Nor-thope Indian Flour Mills ..	1,800	80	80	dvd Rs12	220
Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co.	2,80	25	250	8 pr. c	375
Eastern	1,497	1,000	1,000	Rs 60	400
Oriental	9,735	625	625	dvdRs60	325
Fredlenes Mills Co (Ltd).	743	1,000	1,000	dvdRs50	1,252
Queen Mills	800	1,000	1,000	4vdRs60	940
Ripon Mills	600	1,000	1,000	dvdRs65	1,210
Sassoon	1,000	1,000	1,000	4vdRs50	1,060
Shahapore Mill	800	1,000	1,000	dvdRs60	1,540
Soonderbai	750	1,000	1,000	4vdRs40	850
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Sun Mills, Ltd	1,800	250	250	4vdRs20	30
Standard Mills Co.	1,500	250	500	25	350
Star of India	1,000	1,000	1,000	Nil	680
Standard Mills	10,000	500	500	4vd Rs15	615
Swadeshi and Alliance	2,500	5	5	80. 4vdRs15	65.
Union Spinning and Manufacturing Co	900	1,000	1,000	80	52
Union Mills Ltd	1,800	1,000	1,000	4vdRs30	593
Wadia Manufacturing Co	800	500	900	4vdRs40	410.0
Victoria Mills	450	1,000	1,000	Nil	775
Western India	1,800	2,000	1,000	4vdRs30	90
Wallis Mills	1,000	1,000	1,000	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION

Rs. 16-2

Gold Five-Pound Pieces	13-8
Bar Silver	83-8
Gold Leaf	26
Bar Gold, English (60 touch)	3-12
Do. Australian	3-18
Bar Bombay	28-8
Bar Penang	35-4

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

Three and-a-half per cent Paper	101-12
Three and-a-half per cent 1892	102-2
Bombay Port Trust Debenture Loans	130
New French Loan 5 per cent. 1872	—
City of Paris Loan	—
Guaranteed Four per cent. Port Trust Bond	108

EXCHANGE

	Terms.	Rate.
On demand	On demand	1s. 3 1-32 d.
Telegraphic	Do.	1s. 3 1-3 d.
2 Months sight	2 Months sight	1s. 3 1 16d.
Do.	Do.	...
Do.	Do.	...
Do.	Do.	1s. 3 3-16d
Do.	Do.	1s. 3 1-4d.
Do.	Do.	1s. 3 3-32d.
Do.	Do.	1s. 3 7-32d.
Do.	Do.	159 1-4
Do.	Do.	159-64
Do.	Do.	160 1 16
Do.	Do.	16 5-16
Do.	Do.	160 1-16
Do.	Do.	160 1-8
Do.	Do.	160 1-4 to 3-16

...TER READINGS.

...NIGHT.—MARCH 19.

...DAY.—MARCH 19.

...

BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, 6h. 4m. Sun sets, 6h., 11m. High water, 0.31a. Low water, 6.37m., 6.17a.
Sixth Bombay Extra Races.
B. V. A. Annual Inspection.
B. V. R. parade.
Western India Lawn-Tennis championship.
Byculla Club, Gymkhana meeting and Ladies' tiffin.
Lecture on the "Cleansed Conscience," by Lieut.-Colonel Freeman, Church Mission Hall, Girgaum, 8 p.m.
Bombay V. A., Smoking Concert, Port Club Rooms, 9 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Sun rises, 6h., 4m. Sun sets, 6h., 11m. High water, 0.52m., 1.13a. Low water, 6.42m., 6.58a.
B. V. A. Church parade.
P. and O. s.s. Carthage, with English mails of the 5th instant, due to arrive, day-light.

PRINCE'S DOCK.—The steamer Brahamani entered the dock on Thursday, and the steamer Indravati left it yesterday.

VICTORIA DOCK.—The steamers Archimede and Gitella entered the dock on Thursday, and the steamer Ravenna left it yesterday.

MARALUXMI RACES.—A special train will leave Colaba, to-day, at 2-50 p.m. (local time).

RELIGIOUS LECTURE.—A lecture on "The Cleansed Conscience" will be delivered in the Church Mission Hall, Girgaum, at 6 o'clock, this evening, by Lieut.-Col. Freeman.

MOONLIGHT BAND.—By kind permission of Colonel Cooper and Officers, the Band of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers will perform a programme of music, at the Esplanade Bandstand, commencing at 9 p.m., on Tuesday.

LECTURE ON DEATH.—A public lecture will be delivered in Gujarati, at the Bhavatsky Lodge, Theosophical Society, Bombay Branch, 37, Hornby Road, Fort, to-morrow (Sunday), at 5 p.m. Subject: "Death, in the Light of Occult Philosophy."

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A CALASSEE.—Mr. Allan F Turner, the coroner, held an inquiry, yesterday, at Bori Bunder, touching the death of Shahiakao Jalal, aged forty years, a calassee employed on board a kotia, named Nandoos, Rehman. On Thursday afternoon another calassee of the kotia went up the mast head to fix some wooden blocks on the mast, when one of the blocks accidentally slipped off the mast and fell on the deceased, who was at the time seated on the deck grinding curry stuff, inflicting him down and rendering him unconscious. On being placed up it was found that he had sustained a bleeding wound on the head. He died while he was being conveyed to the shore to be taken to a hospital. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

SWADESHI S. W. & M. CO., LD.

THE Directors of the C. P. Swadeshi Spinning Weaving and Manufacturing Company Limited Nagpur have sent in the following report to their shareholders:—Your Directors have much pleasure in laying before you for your approval and acceptance a consolidated Balance-Sheet, together with the Revenue and Profit and Loss accounts for the Sainvatsar ending Ashwin last i. e. 5th November 1896. They are glad to be able to say that the working of the second account of the new shares alloted. The payment of dividend will be made, as usual, on and after the 15th of June next. The undesirable and somewhat unsatisfactory feature of the year's business in Nagpur of all mill business in this country is the accumulation of a large stock of yarn in hand. Last year yarn in stock on day of Diwali was of the value of Rs. 66,549-0-0 against Rs. 3,17,542-14-3 as shown in the statement of the year under report. This accumulation of stock is due to the unexpected and unprecedented of acute famine all over the country resulting in diminution of demand for yarn. This matter is engaging the anxious attention of your Directors who hope to make arrangements for sale of the stock as early as possible. (6) Gins:—As suggested in last years report, your Directors have built and equipped 1 Ginning Factory at Dhamtari as they hope but by the time you read this report, this factory will commence working. Your Directors are of opinion that gins at outside stations will secure better and more cotton and prove profitable to you in the long run. (5) Preparation:—Additional preparatory machinery as ordained by the Board of your Directors last year consisting of 2 Roving frames 8 Cards 8 Beatires &c. has been received and set up. This will be expensive, give you better results next year. (6) New Godowns and Godowns Service:—One large Godowns capable of holding 5,000 doeras have been built at a cost of Rs. 4,572-2-0 on the site of the old godowns burnt down last year. By way of provision against fire, the Hydrant-service has been extended to nearly all of your cotton godowns on the premises, and it is hoped that this arrangement when completed, will minimize risk from this direction in future. Your property has, asusual, been fully insured. There have been eight meetings of the year under report 37 meetings of the Sub-Committee and 11 of the Board. Your Directors have specially to thank Sir Seth Narayandas Bajaj, Rao Bahadur Ramchandra Vithal Bhide and Rao Bahadur Vishnoo Janetalkar for their valuable services as Directors, which they are entitled under Articles 110 and 117 of the Articles of Association, and they take this opportunity of thanking the Secretary, Mr. Harris, your present manager, has continued to give them satisfaction. He has always taken a lively interest in his work, and has done his best to assist your Directors in promoting the welfare of your Mill. His assistance Messrs Dhanjibhoy Tharadal, Hathi Ji Nagindas, Huddar, and Raghu Vishnoo Janetalkar have also done good work. Proper discipline and harmony have been maintained amongst workmen in the various departments. Mr. Wamna Rao Potli has acquitted himself well in the discharge of his responsible duties, and the clerical establishment have also done well. It is with feelings of deep sorrow that your Directors have to state that they sustained a great loss in the death of their colleague Seth Narayanji, which event took place on the 8th of January last. His services in business matters and his pecuniary assistance in times of need were of great help to your concern. It is hoped that his son Seth Motilalji will maintain this same cordial relations with this Company. In conclusion you are requested to:—1. pass the audited Balance Sheet of your Company for the Dew all year 1893, and accept this report and declare a dividend of Rs. 30 per share as proposed; 2. confirm the appointment of Seth Motilalji in place of his father Seth Agiaraniji deceased, 3. elect new Directors in place of the old ones who now retire, and 4. appoint Shet Auditors and fix their remuneration.

ROYAL BOMBAY YACHT CLUB.

THE following are the entries for to-day's races:—
Yachts' Race.—Start at 4 p.m.

Yacht's Name	Entered by
Pilcrin	Lieut R St J Gillespie
Turquoise	R H Luard
Mosaly	J H C Macbeth
Red Rose	Capt John Hext, R N
Kismet	Capt S J Chamier
Mystic	Mr G T Scovell

Course No. 3 reversed, viz.:—From Committee vessel round South Karanja B uoy, leaving it to Starboard, and back to Committee vessel.

Ship's Boats' Race.—Start at 4-15 p.m.

Boat's Name	Entered by
H M S Magdala's Cutter	Geo W Silver-tor
H M S Magdala's Cutter	Lieut L H Richardson
I M Dockyard Cutter	A Monk

Course No. 9 (3 times round).

THE JAMSHED-I-NAOROZ FESTIVAL.

TO-MORROW (Sunday) is what is known among the Persians as the Jamshed-i-Naoroz festival, which ought to be the real Parsee New Year's Day, according to the Zoroastrian religion, and in conformity with the custom observed in Persia. It indicates the advent of spring, corresponding with the vernal equinox. The date fixed when Jamshed was proclaimed King has continued up to the present time as the Parsee era. In Persia, however, the 21st March is observed as the New Year's day, which is passed in feasting and rejoicing. This happy observance has been continued to the present day in Persia; and the Parsees, following in the wake of their ancient countrymen, have for the last five years met together and sat at one common table to feast in true oriental fashion, the dishes being also prepared in the ancient fashion, all alcoholic drinks being avoided. This year, however, on account of the plague, the annual dinner has been abandoned, as also the celebration by Parsee Freemasons.

BOMBAY SIXTH EXTRA MEETING.

TO BE HELD TO-DAY SATURDAY.

ORDER OF RUNNING AND TIME.

1st Race.—The Victoria Stakes ..... 3-30 p.m.
2nd Race.—The Bloom Plate ..... 3-4 p.m.
3rd Race.—The Galloway Handicap ..... 4-10 p.m.
4th Race.—The March Stakes ..... 4-35 p.m.
5th Race.—The Hack Plate ..... 5-6 p.m.
6th Race.—The Selling Race ..... 5-25 p.m.
7th Race.—The Lollipops ..... 5-50 p.m.

T. M. LE M. GRIFFITHS,
Honorary Secretary Y. R. I. T. Club.

THE ALBION MILK AND SULPHUR SOAP

—Pure, Mild, and Emollient.—This essentially complexion Soap is most agreeable and beneficial in use, especially where the skin is sensitive, or has become roughened by exposure on land or sea. It never irritates and hence with its soothing and peasantly purifying tendency is particulary valuable in hot climates. A luxury for the Toilet, and the Bath. Indispensable for Children, Creamy lathers, delicately perfumed Sold by all Chemists and Stores.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth, go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to the taste. It produces natural quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pains, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other cause. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine Dealers every where at 1s.

HIGH COURT.—ORIGINAL SIDE.

(Before Mr. JUSTICE FULTON.)

MANKUBAI, WIDOW OF VASUDEV KRISHNARAO, DHAIRYAWAN VS. DADAJI KRISHNARAO DHAIRYAWAN AND VINAYAK KRISHNARAO DHAIRYAWAN.

THE defendants claimed restoration of the possession of a room in the family-house, situate on the verge of Rowwadi, on the Kalbadevie Road, which had been in her husband's and her step-son's possession and use for many years, and after her husband's death, in her exclusive possession for about two years.

Mr. Anderson, instructed by Messrs. Chitnis Motilal and Motivi, appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Inverarity, instructed by Messrs. Bicknell, Marwanji, and Motilal, for the defendants. The defence set up by the defendants was amongst other things that the house was an undivided property, that the plaintiff cannot be said to have possession of any portion of the house, she being a childless widow of an undivided brother, that they had a proprietory right over the room by survivorship, and that they had put up the lock over the room in exercise of such right. After framing issues, and hearing evidence, his Lordship took time to consider judgment. On the 16th instant, his Lordship delivered the following judgment:—The plaintiff is the widow of the late Vasudev Krishnarao Dhairyawan, who died on the 5th of March, 1895. The defendants are brothers of the deceased. The room in dispute is situated in the family-house in Kalbadevi. It was occupied for many years by the deceased, and remained in the occupation of his widow after his death. The evidence shows that she used to keep her things in it, occasionally lived in it, and was in the habit of keeping it locked when she herself was absent. In April, 1896, the defendants through their solicitors, attempted to get the key from her, but she refused to give it up, and claimed to occupy the room in her own right. On 21th July, the defendants put their own pad-lock on the door, and thus excluded the plaintiff.

Up till a short time before Vasudev's death, the brothers were undivided in estate. Before he died, however, a partition of moveables took place, and it is said there was an agreement to sell the house and divide the sale proceeds. But the evidence is insufficient to prove this arrangement, and I must, therefore, hold for the purpose of this suit that at the time of Vasudev's death the house remained joint, and that his interest therein passed to his brothers and not to his widow. In the circumstances, the question for decision is whether the plaintiff was dispossessed on the 24th July, 1896, within the meaning of section 9 of the Specific Relief Act. The answer, I think, must be in the affirmative. The plaintiff, whether rightly or wrongfully, was occupying the room, and claiming to do so, as of right. Her solicitor's letter of 27th April, shows that she had not only physical detention, but also the intention of holding adversely to the defendants. There is nothing to show that at any time after her husband's death she held by permission of the defendants. Probably, they did not object at first, but the mere fact that they may have acquiesced in her occupation, would not make it permissive, unless she herself held on these terms. There is nothing to show that she consented to be so held by permission of her brothers-in-law. Mr. Inverarity said that if that were so, she was a mere trespasser, and referred to the decision of Mr. Justice Melvill, in Dadabhai vs. Sub-Collector of Broach, to show that she could not recover possession under section 9 of the Specific Relief Act, whatever may be the case with a mere trespasser, who knows he has no right, I think it is impossible to hold that a person who has succeeded in maintaining her occupation for over two years, who apparently believes herself entitled to occupy, is not in possession. I must, therefore, hold that the plaintiff was in possession till 24th July, 1896, when she was dispossessed by the defendants.

There will be a decree for the plaintiff for possession in the terms of the prayer in the plaint. Defendants to pay the plaintiff's costs.

BOMBAY PORT TRUST.

THE following an Excerpts from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Trustees of the Port of Bombay, held on the 9th March.

Read letter from the Engineer dated 24th February 1897, addressed to the Port Officers, forwarding survey report of the anchor buy "Grappler" and estimates for alterations and articles of equipment required not estimated to cost Rs. 475, and requesting that as he has no funds, the Trustees' sanction may be obtained to the proposals. Read letter from the Port Officer, dated 12th February 1897.

Resolution Sanctioned.

QUARTERS FOR ARTIZANS AND LABOURERS.

Read letter from the Engineer, dated 8th March 1897, submitting revised plans for the proposed quarters for artizans and labourers and estimating the cost at Rs. 1,38,407-10-0, or including establishment Rs. 1,49,947-2-0.

Read the following note by the Chairman dated 9th March. The site proposed for this block of quarters is selected on the most feasible instance is on the Argyle Road immediately north of the Elphinstone Bridge. It is surrounded on all four sides by wide roads and by a few huts inhabited by the master mariners of the docks. The ground plan shows that the quarters are arranged in the form of a quadrangle. The rooms are blocks of two-storied floor. There are to be three floors. There is a gully space 4 feet wide between the blocks, so that each room has three external walls. The whole of the courtyard of the quadrangle and the gully spaces are paved with stone.

The latrines and bathing platforms with fisterns are in the centre of the quadrangle. The rooms are 10ft 1 6 thick and 9ft 6 between walls. Verandah in front and 4 feet in rear, part of the latter being enclosed to form nahanaas. The construction is pucca throughout; the roofs of the ground-floor rooms are impervious. Ample ventilation is provided for in each room in addition to the doors and windows. The water-supply and drainage arrangements have received special attention.

The project has been much improved by the revision of the plans effected since the last meeting as will be seen from the foregoing description; the size of nearly all the rooms has been increased from 108210, to 10810, and another floor has been added.

After much careful discussion with the Engineer, I am satisfied that it will be "practicable to complete two floors only before the rains. I find that the cost of adding an additional floor subsequently would not be more than Rs. 100 per block, or Rs 2,700 in all. It could not be done readily in the rains. I recommend that the plan and estimate be approved, that the foundations and the collection of materials be sanctioned at once, that orders be given to push on the works as fast as practicable, and that the decision as regards the budget to be raised this season be deferred until the work has progressed somewhat, the object being to have as many quarters ready as possible before the monsoon.

This block will meet the requirements of, say, Dock employes Rs. 75 Bunder Rs. 7, Engineer Rs. 9 Total Rs. 350. And as the cost of 350 quarters at all would finish the project, or say 2 3 1-2 lakhs "I think, making, say, 2 1-2 lakhs for the Port Trust fund, the beginning of the assimilation of the Esplanade's labourers, the most convenient plan would probably be for the trustees to build and rent to the contractors. This is a matter for separate consideration and will be reported on later.

Read draft letter to Government explaining the necessity for providing dwellings for the inferior servants, artizans, and labourers employed by the Trust; stating that there is no provision for the work in the Budget, that it is estimated that about 3 lakhs will be required in all to carry out the complete scheme that it is proposed to proceed with the construction of one block of quarters at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1,50,000 at once, so that as accommodation may be available before the south-west monsoon and requesting permission to incur expenditure upto 3 lakhs in the ensuing year and as part of the next loan to be raised for new works, the money being meanse, while advanced as required from the Trustees balances which include same in hand on account of works included in the last loan, but differed for the present. Read proceedings of the Finance and Establishment Committees advising that the draft should be approved.

Resolution—The Chairman's recommendation and the draft letter to Government are approved.

WAR BUBONIC PLAGUE HOSPITAL.

Read letter from the Chairman, Plague Committee, dated 6th March 1897, requesting that the Trustees' Medical Officer in charge of the War Bunder Hospital may be allowed to receive any plague patients that may be sent to his hospital. Read letter to the Chairman, Plague Committee, dated 9th March 1897, explaining the circumstances under which the Trustees consider it inadvisable to throw their hospital open to the general public, and offering a site on the same ground for the erection of a separate hospital.

Read letter from the Chairman, Plague Committee, dated 8th March 1897, thanking the Trustees for the use of the land offered, saying that arrangements will now be made for the construction of an independent hospital under the Committee; and requesting sanction to the use of the Trustees land to the west of the Causeway and Custom Chowky at Mahim for the construction of a hospital thereon.

Read letter to the Chairman, Plague Committee, dated 8th March 1897, saying that instruction have been given to make a site available for the Committee's hospital to the west of the Trustees' hospital, and that an application from the Executive Engineer, Municipality, for permission to pitch a segregation camp near the Mahim Fort was objected to by the Trustees in concurrence in the opinion of the Collector of Land Revenue and Customs, as there had been plague cases both to the right and left of the site and the ground was in places saturated with salt as we ar but if the Committee have found that there is a suitable place there for a hospital, the Trustees are prepared to waive their objection and I have instructed the Traffic Manager to make it available.

Resolution—To be recorded.

Vessels plotted into harbour ...	For week ending 5th March	Total from 1st Apl. 1896 to 5th March	For week ending 5th March	Total from 1st Apl. 1895 to 5th March 1896.
" out of harbour	15	869	21	946
" transferred	9	258	17	510
" attended to	1	74	1	84
" warped	1	34	3	80

ARRIVAL OF THE OROTAVA IN COLOMBO.

THE s. s. Orotava arrived at Colombo, at noon, on Saturday. When her passengers where transferred from her to the steamer Ballarat she was apparently so hopelessly ashore that it looked as if she must become a total wreck. The Orotava was got off by the telegraph ship Amber. She carried a large part of the Orient vessel's passenger baggage and the mails to Aden, where they were transhipped to the Ballarat. The Orotava, it seems, was rescued from her position on the Ras-el-fin reef on the 3rd inst., three days after her passengers had quitted her for Aden. Her getting off was a very simple affair. The Amber, having returned from Aden, passed out a steel-hawser and pulled her off the reef in something like eight minutes, two small tugs also assisting. Before this, as our readers will remember, there were several vessels round the stranded Orotava, but they did not give any help as the sea was too rough. When the weather an the sea calmed, the Amber found the task an easy business. And so one of the best steamers of the Orient line was saved and is now on her way to Australia to pick up her run. She is unique in being a passenger vessel arriving here without a sail: ary passenger.—*Times of Ceylon.*

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G. COTTON,
Honorary Secretary

Bombay, 16th March, 1897.

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F. A. PREVOST,
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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

BOMBAY MARKET REPORT.

FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 19.

AN improvement continues to be shown in the mortality returns of the prevailing epidemic; but the strongest segregatory measures which it has been found necessary to adopt to stamp out the pestilence, has caused the native exodus to continue to some extent, and has retarded the return of many of the same community to their accustomed occupations in Bombay. We are now in the midst of the native "Holi" festival for which the Banks and markets generally are closed to-day and will be so again on Monday, and business meantime is at a standstill. On one or two days there was a better enquiry from shippers for our principal export staple, and Mills which are still working, have taken a little ready stuff; but business upon the whole has been very limited for the time of of year. Wheat and Seeds became finer and advancing on the receipt of telegraphic news of the modification of the stringent regulations regarding shipments from Nuba to French ports; but the enhanced prices demanded by dealers militated against business, and both markets have since become quiet again. Exchange has been pretty steady at some advance on our last quotations, and rates closed yesterday 1-16d. higher, for both Bank and Private Paper, than they stood last Friday evening. The Money Market remains tight. Government Paper is 4 per cent. lower in each denomination. Freights close dull in tone with very little doing owing to uneasiness regarding the strained political situation in Europe. With the addition of the native holidays to the previously prevailing dulness, business in Imports is practically at a standstill, and prices are nominal.

MONEY.—The market became very stringent again during the week covered by the Statement of Affairs of the Presidency Bank issued on Monday, but the rates at the Bank and outside remained at the previous level, the demand for accommodation not having necessitated any change. The figures published, however, disclosed an increase of 22 lakhs in the trade demand for Money at the Bank, compared with an addition of 3¼ lakhs in the week preceding, withdrawals to the extent of 11 lakhs having taken place from Private Deposits, while there was a sensible and a material increase, respectively, in Loans and Bills Discounted. The Bank's Cash Balance, however, showed a diminution of only some 3½ lakhs, at 13¼ lakhs, as against a reduction of about 5 lakhs in the previous week, the increase in trade requirements having been counterbalanced in a great measure by an accession to Government Deposits at the Bank's head office and branches, aggregating 19½ lakhs.

The Bank of Bombay closed for the holiday to-day, with the Money Market tight, and the Bank's minimum rate still at 10 per cent; as it is also in the open market.

EXCHANGE.—The market opened quiet last mail day at 1s. 2 31-32d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and 1s. 33-32d. for three months' sight Credits. The latter were scarce, but there was a fair enquiry for Bank Paper, especially for the near future. Quiet but steady in tone on Monday rates were given at 1s. 2 31-32d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and 1s. 3 1-16d. for three months' sight Credits. A small amount of the latter were placed also some Wire Transfer. On Tuesday 1s. 3d was quoted for Telegraphic and Demand, for Bank remittance, and 1s. 3 3-32d. for three months' sight Credits. Bills on Merchants' Bills were also quiet, but the enquiry for Bank Paper was very limited. For Bank Telegraphic and Demand 1s. 3 1-32d. was named on the following day, and for three months' sight 1s. 3 1/8d., in a steady market. The enquiry for Bank Paper was very small, and Merchants' Bills were scarce, but the latter class having been reported either way. There was a steady feeling in the market yesterday with 1s. 3d. quoted for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and 1s. 3 1/8d. for three months' sight Credits. A moderate amount of Merchants' Bills were sold, but there was very little enquiry for Bank Paper; after the day the market having become firmer in tone rates improved 1-32d., all round, closing at the following quotations, which are our final ones, the Banks being closed to-day for the native holidays:—

		per rupee.
Bank Bills on Demand	1s. 3 1-32d.	
Do. Telegraphic	1s. 3 1-32d.	
Do. 3 months' sight	1s. 3 1-16d.	"
Credits 3 do.	1s. 3 5-32d.	"
Do. 6 do.	1s. 3 7-32d.	"
Documents 3 mos' sight	1s. 3 3-16d.	"
Do. 6 do.	1s. 3 1-4d.	"
Francs 3 do.	199 1-4	"
Do. 6 do.	199 1-4	"

GOVERNMENT PAPER.—Rates were quoted last mail day at 101 3-8 for Money, and 101 5-8 for Account, in a stagnant market, but afterwards they were called 101 5-8 and 101½, for 3½ per Cents, and 97¼, nominal, for 3 per Cents. No business worth mentioning passed on Monday, and quotations were almost nominal at 101½ for 3½ per Cents for Cash, 101 5-8 for the next Settlement, and 97¼ for Threes. For 3½ per Cents 101 7-16 and 101 5-8 were quoted on Tuesday for Money and Account, respectively, and 97, nominal, for Threes, with no business to speak of passing. Weak in tone on Wednesday, prices were quoted for 3½ per Cents at 101 3-16 for Cash, 101 3-8 for the coming Settlement, and 97, nominal, for Threes; but very little business in any position was reported. Yesterday the market was weak and declining in tone, and rates for 3½ per Cents after opening at 101 for Cash and 101 3-16 for the Settlement, receded to 100 7-8 and 101 1-8 in the two positions, respectively, 97¼ having been nominally quoted for Threes; these being our final quotations, the market having entirely closed to-day for a native festival.

Municipal 5 per cent. Loan and Port Trust Bonds are un changed at 130, and 108, respectively.

SHARES.—On some days there has been a little business reported in this market, and, compared with the quotations in our last weekly list are now into an advance of Rs. 40 in Maneckji Petit Mill shares, and the same in Leopold; of Rs. 15 on Swadeshi; and of Rs. 10 in Framji Petit; while Madras United are Rs. 50 lower. In Miscellaneous shares, Preachers and Co. have advanced Rs. 13; 2 Asiatic Fives, Rs. 10; Kamp and Co., Rs. 10; Alcock Ashdown, Rs. 5 and Marcks and Co., Rs. 2; while Bombay Burma Trading have declined Rs. 50 for the second issue and Badham Pile Rs. 11 per share.

IMPORTS.

PIECE GOODS.—Owing to the occurrence of the Native Holi holidays the stagnant state of this market has been intensified; no business is doing in any direction, and prices are quite nominal.

YARNS.—"Imported Twist" is in the same position as Goods, with nothing doing, and prices nominally unaltered. "Bombay Spinnings" are likewise neglected, the market closing quiet at the following official quotations:—

Twist	No.	Mule, As.		to		per lb.
"	32	"	"	4¼	"	"
"	10s	"	"	4¼	"	"
"	12s	"	"	5	"	"
"	16s	"	"	5½	"	"
"	20s	"	"	6¼	"	"
"	30s	"	"	7¼	"	"
"	40s	"	"	8	"	"

METALS.—There is also nothing passing in this market, and prices of all are nominally unaltered.

COAL.—Resales have been reported during the week of ready Powell's Duffryn ex Islar (s), at Rs. 21 1-2 per ton; and resales of Seedpur Bengal ex Golabaria (s), at Rs. 12½ per ton. No forward sales have been reported; and the market closes quiet. We quote alongside:—

Welsh Hartley	...	...	*Nil.*
West "	...	...	"
Australian	...	...	Rs. 16½ per ton, (nom.
Powell's Duffryn	...	...	" 21½ "
Cardiff	...	...	" 11 "
Japan	...	...	" 14 "
Bengal	...	...	" 11½ "
Singareni	...	...	" 13 (Rail delivery)
Seebpore	...	...	" 13 per ton.
Sanctoria	...	...	" 13 "
Deshagur	...	...	" 13 "

EXPORTS.

COTTON.—There was a better enquiry for this staple for exporters' account a couple of days ago, and a moderate amount of business was reported in that direction; while local consumers were also in the market to some extent, their requirements, however, are now on a comparatively limited scale owing to the closing of so many Mills, the epidemic fever scare having driven so many of the Mill-hands from this city. On the whole, transactions for export have been very small for the time of year, and much of the business which has transpired has been the settlement of forward contracts in Bengals and Broach for this month's delivery. In prices there has been but little movement. To-day, the up-country markets are closed for the *Holi* festival, and here only a small amount of business has been reported; but dealers remain stiff at previous quotations.

The Receipts of Cotton of this season's crop into Bombay during the past week have been 52,000 bales, compared with 59,000 bs los in the week preceding, and 56,000 bales in the corresponding week last year; and the diminution in arrivals of new Cotton this season, as against last is now 317,000 bales.

The following are to-day's quotations for full-pressed Cotton, with the equivalents in sterling, cost, and freight to Liverpool, via Canal, without Commission, viz.:—

Cotton—			Per candy	Per lb. C. & F.
Bengal, Fine	Mar.	...	Rs. 154	3 15-16d.
Do. Fully Good	do	...	" 141	2 29-32d.
Do. Good	do	...	" 126	2 21-32d.
Bolatee, Fine	do	...	" 120	2 1-8d.
Do. Fully Good	do	...	" 106	2 31-32d.
Khandesh, Fully Good	do	...	" 134	3 3-32d.
Oomra, Fully Good	do	...	" 176	3 9-32d.
Dhollera, Fine	Mar & Apl	...	" 137	3 1-2d.
Do. Fully Good	do	...	" 177	3 5-16d.
Do. Good	do	...	"	
S G Dharwar Good	Apl & May	...	" 126	2 21-32d.
Western do.	do	...	" 178	3 11-32d.
Broach	ready	...	"	
Ditto	do	...	"	

The arrivals of New Crop Cotton into Bombay this season, as compared with last, are as follows:—

	Season. 1896-97. F. P. Bales.	Season. 1895-96. F. P. Bales.
Bengals	196,000	253,000
Berar	247,000	297,500
Khandeish	184,500	231,000
Barsi and Nuggur	32,000	63,500
Hingunghat	10,000	13,500
Persian and Sind	5,000	27,000
Broach	76,500	107,000
Dholleras	42,500	80,500
Compta and Dharwar	2,000	500
	775,500	1,092,500

The movements of Cotton to date show the following comparison with the previous two years:—

Receipts.	1897. Bales.	1896. Bales.	1895. Bales.
For 6 days	61,314	56,299	25,353
From 1st Jan. to 17th March	541,404	685,551	378,355
Clearances to Great Britain and Continent.			
For 6 days	10,745	10,639	2,671
From 1st Jan. to 17th March	184,231	265,432	76,890
Clearances to Calcutta, China, Japan, &c.			
For 6 days	17,148	18,239	8,027
From 1st Jan. to 17th March	171,939	87,476	28,484

WHEAT and SEEDS.—On the receipt of advices by wire of the modifying of the restrictions imposed at the French Ports on merchandise arriving from plague-infected districts of India, in the middle of the week, these markets became firm, all round, with a better inquiry from exporters; but little business was done, owing to dealers having raised their pretensions considerably, and the feeling has meatime become quiet, both markets having been closed to-day for the holidays.

The comparative Imports of Wheat and Seeds are as follows:—

	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Wheat for 6 days	19,378	64,038	58,910
Do. from 1st January to 17th March	146,058	853,501	653,918
Linseed for 6 days	4,737	137,931	111,491
Do. from 1st January to 17th March	50,238	1,154,792	954,895
Rapeseed for 6 days	3,407	16,035	61,311
Do. from 1st January to 17th March	33,935	97,514	245,987
Gingelly seed for 6 days	32,330	14,933	19,615
Do. from 1st January to 17th March	255,012	620,423	490,339

The clearances of Wheat and Seeds to Great Britain and Continent are as follows:—

	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Wheat for 6 days	...	23,972	10,159
Do. from 1st January to 17th March	811	187,537	129,661
Linseed for 6 days	...	21,510	40,899
Do. from 1st January to 17th March	118,689	530,382	402,346
Rapeseed for 6 days	5,338	990	670
Do. from 1st January to 17th March	111,100	233,151	249,235
Gingelly seed for 6 days	6,003	89,272	27,049
Do. from 1st January to 17th March	138,607	631,870	528,633

DIVINE SERVICE.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 21.
SAINT THOMAS' CATHEDRAL.
6-30 a.m.—Holy Communion.
7-45 a.m.—Matins.
8 a.m.—Holy Communion—Choral. Merbecke—Hymns—I, 187, 311 part 2, 558.
9-45 p.m.—Children's Service.
6 p.m.—Evensong and Sermon.—Hymns 91, 196 and 365.
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis.—Bunnett.
Daily Matins at 5-45 a.m. and Evensong at 5 p.m. Holy Communion at 7-15 a.m. daily.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, MALABAR HILL.
8 a.m.—Matins and Holy Communion.
6 p.m.—Evensong and Sermon.

BOWEN CHURCH.
(Apollo Bunder, behind Apollo Hotel.)
10 a.m.—Sunday School.
11 a.m.—Mr. Douglas Green.
6 p.m.—Sermon by Rev. Isaac F. Row.
All seats free.

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.
(Waudby Road, Esplanade.)
6 p.m.—Rev. T. Currie, M.A.
Psalms 67 (1); Hymns 67 and 76.
4-30 p.m.—Sunday School and Bible Class.
5-15 p.m.—Meeting in Manse for Bible Study, Wednesday

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.
(Afghan Mosque, Colaba.)
8 a.m.—Holy Communion.
11 a.m.—Parade Service (The Bishop of Bombay will preach).—Hymns 143, 183 and 634.
5 p.m.—Sunday School.
6 p.m.—Evensong and Sermon.—Hymns 249, 537, 31 and 94.

CHRIST CHURCH, BYCULLA.
7-30 a.m.—Matins.
8 a.m.—Holy Communion (Choral)—Hymns 91, 313 and 260.
6 p.m.—Evensong and Sermon by the Rev. C. Gilder.—Hymns 223, 304 and 250.

SAINT NICHOLAS' SEAMEN'S CHURCH.
7 a.m.—Matins.
7-30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Choral).
6-30 p.m.—Evensong and Sermon by the Rev. A. Leahy of the S. P. G.

WEEK DAYS.
7 a.m.—Morning Prayer.
6 p.m.—Evening Prayer.
THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS.
7 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

WESLEYAN CHURCH.
(Colaba Causeway.)
11 a.m. and 6 p.m.—Rev. G. C. Walker.
4-30 p.m.—Sunday School.

Byculla, Victoria Gardens
9-30 a.m. and 6 p.m.—Rev. A. Brown.
4-30 p.m.—Sunday School.
Mrs. Hall Service—10-30 a.m. and 6-00 p.m. Rev. S. Ellaker.

MISSION CHURCH, GIRGAUM.
11 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Sermon by Rev. W. H. Dixon.—Hymns 132, 121 and 129.
6 p.m.—Evening Prayer, Holy Communion and Sermon by Rev. A. H. Bowman.—Hymns 126, 36 and 138.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.
8 a.m.—B. S. and C. I. Railway Institute, Parel.
6 p.m.—St. Andrew's Church, Fort.
Volunteer Parade Service.
Ps. 9 and 7 tune 111.
Par. 58, tune 135.
Hy. 91, tune first.
Hy 130.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PAREL.
(Madras Time.)
7-45 a.m.—Holy Communion.
9-30 a.m.—Morning Prayer.—Hymns 5, 16 and 178.
5-30 p.m.—Sunday School.
6-30 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon.—Hymns 181, 208 and 225.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, MAZAGON.
8 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Plain).
7 a.m.—Holy Eucharist (Sung) with Sermon by the Rev. Father Osborne.
10 a.m.—Matins.
6 p.m.—Evensong and Sermon by the Rev. Father Kershaw.

FOREIGN TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE.

Latest dates of foreign mails received at Bombay, from the United Kingdom, during the 24 hours ending, at 8 p.m., of the 19th March, 1897.

Difference in Longitude allowed for.)

Via.	Latest Dates. D.	H.	M.	Time occupied in transmission. Hours.	Minutes.
Turkey	18	3	15 p.m.	8	15
Teheran	19	2	47 p.m.	"	18
Bushire	19	4	30 p.m.	"	1

Time occupied in the transmission of messages to Bombay, during the 24 hours ending, at 8 p.m., of the 19th March, 1897.

	Maximum Time. H.	M.	Minimum Time. H.	M.
From Calcutta	"	39	"	1
" Karachi	"	3	"	1
" Madras	"	32	"	1

B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 6th March, 1897, on 461 Miles open.

	Coaching Traffic Receipts.	Merchandise and Mineral Traffic Receipts.	Other Earnings (estimated.)	Total Earnings.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total traffic for the week	76,000	2,03,000	4,000	2,83,000
Or per mile of Railway	165	440	9	614
For previous 9 weeks of half-year.	8,18,758	14,87,549	33,013	23,97,345
Total for 9 weeks	8,94,758	16,90,549	37,013	25,80,345
Comparison. Total for corresponding week of previous year	1,26,000	2,17,891	2,608	3,45,742
Per mile of Ry 40	273	473	6	752
Total to corresponding date	10,73,444	22,92,903	45,088	33,75,436
Decrease for the week				Rs. 62,742
Ditto to date				" 7,83,090

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE OVERLAND SUMMARY.

(Compiled for despatch by the Weekly Mail to Europe.)

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1 DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES—HOMEWARD MAILS FROM BOMBAY—OUTWARD MAILS FROM EUROPE—HEADS OF INTELLIGENCE.
2-3 THE WEEK.
4 An Asylum for the Poor at Ahmedabad—The Plague Mortality of the Presidency.
5-6-7-8 The Epidemic.
10 The Pestilence in Poona—Religious Ill-Feeling in the Punjab.
11 BOMBAY AND PRESIDENCY—Dr. Hatikine's Protective Lymph—MILITARY NEWS.
12 LEADING ARTICLES: The Finances of Three Years—How the Plague was made Fe—
13 LEADING ARTICLES: The Rebuilding of the Native Town—The Drainage of Bombay.
14 LEADING ARTICLES: To Disinfect the Flats—The Mahomedans and their Sanitary needs.
15 LEADING ARTICLES: The Government and the Maharani of Ruthanpur—The Templeton Case.
16 What was the Cause of the Plague?
17 The Rebuking of the Working Classes—Bombay Auxiliary Bible Society and Book and Tract Society—Sporting News—Bombay Jackal Club Point to Point Races—Bombay Rifle Club—Royal Bombay Yacht Club.
18 Royal Bombay Golf Club—Western India Lawn-Tennis Championship—Arrival of the Transport Dunera—The Standing of the H. H. Khedive—The Status of High Court Judges—The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha Rebuked.
19 The Hyderabad Tragedy—Bombay Municipal Corporation.
20 Municipal Standing Committee—Bank of Bengal.
21 The Famine.
22 The Light Horse Camp—Indian Crop Prospects.
23 BENGAL—MADRAS—N.-W. PROVINCES, OUDH AND PUNJAB—OFFICIAL GAZETTES—Bombay Government Orders—Government of India Orders.
24-26 COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE—Bombay Market Report—Bombay Bank and Stock Lists—Bombay Prices Current—Produce.
26 ADVERTISEMENTS.
Supplement.—Budget.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

POONA.

MARRIAGE.

JOHNSTON—PRIDEAUX—February 22, at St. Mary's Church, Poona, by the Rev. P. B. Horne, M.A., Chaplain of Poona, Assisted by the Rev. L. M. Hastope, M.A., Chaplain of Kirkee, Captain Herbert W. Johnston, 7th Madras Infantry, to Sophie Sinclair Auston, eldest daughter of Colonel Austice Prideaux, Deputy Judge Advocate-General, Bombay Command, 3rd Queen's Gardens, Poona.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES,

BIRTHS.

COCKBURN—March 11, at Karachi, the wife of Capt. W. F. Cockburn, R.A., of a son.
DUNLOP—March 13, at Bareilly, N.-W. P., the wife of Capt. A. S. Dunlop, R. A., of a son.
HARVEY—March 17, at Vepery, Madras, the wife of Alexander Edwin Harvey, Outscanmid, of a daughter.
JACKSON—March 10, at Fyzabad, the w

TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

LONDON, MARCH 19.

Her Majesty the Queen has appointed June 22th as the day of thanksgiving on the occasion of the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign.

THE BLOCKADE OF CRETE.

The blockade of Crete begins officially on Sunday next, but an Austrian cruiser yesterday fired upon and sank a Greek schooner which was landing provisions.

RUSSIAN TROOPS FOR CRETE.

A Russian regiment has passed the Bosphorous en route to Crete.

RECALL OF GREEK GUNBOATS.

The Greek Government have decided to recall two of their gunboats still remaining at Crete.

THE FOREIGN TROOPS IN CRETE.

The disposition of the foreign troops in Crete will be as follows :—The British troops will occupy Candia, the French Sitia and Spinalonga, the Russians Retimo, and the Germans Suda Bay and Canea.

SCENE IN THE COMMONS.

A scene took place in the House of Commons, last night, when Mr. Balfour dared the Opposition to move a vote of censure on the Cretan policy of the Government.

Sir W. V. Harcourt, in reply, said that if he moved a vote of censure, would the Government allow a debate on the same.

Mr. Balfour replied that Sir W. V. Harcourt need only name a day.

This was followed by prolonged cheers and counter-cheers.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

The Education Bill has passed through Committee in the Commons.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES QUESTION IN INDIA.

The Report of the Committee on the Contagious Disease question states that the latest figures are the worst that have been recorded, and show that the prevalence of secondary syphilis was fourfold in 1895 as compared with 1873, and the disease more virulent.

On the basis of the rejections for the Chitral Campaign 8,880 men out of a total of 71,031, must be pronounced as unfit for field operations.

The report adds that the present condition of the Army in India is a great and growing source of danger to the whole community.

The deplorable result does not appear to be attributable to any increased immorality in the Army, where inebriety and crime have greatly diminished under the short service system. Nor does it appear that an increased tendency to sexual indulgence is responsible for the state of affairs.

THE MAILS.

ADEN, MARCH 18.

The P. and O. Co.'s steamer Ganges, with the homeward mails of the 13th instant, arrived here, at 3-30 p.m., to-day.

SUEZ, MARCH 19.

The P. and O. Co.'s steamer Coromandel, with the outward mails of the 12th instant, left here, at 2-30 a.m., to-day.

THE PESTILENCE IN POONA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

POONA, MARCH 19.

There were fifty-nine new cases and nine deaths in the city, to-day ; in the plague hospital twenty-four deaths. The total mortality is fifty-three.

Dr. Donnett has recovered from the attack, and will probably leave the hospital to-morrow.

The Military operations in the cantonment as well as in the city were again resumed early this morning. The soldiers went in the Kasba, Budhwar, and Raviwar peths. Mr. Lamb, the Collector, was present, and assisted in the operations. Dr. Barry superintended the conservancy affairs in a most satisfactory manner. A good many Municipal commissioners were out assisting and watching the operations minutely, and suggesting to the soldiers how to carry out the work.

Mrs Dias detected three female cases suffering with plague, and one of small pox, in the Bhowani Peith, while Mrs. Goodall discovered seven.

Mr. Rand has issued the following order : "That if any plague-stricken persons were found in a house, the search party should only destroy the bedding, and nothing else, and fumigate generally.

BOMBAY COMMAND ORDERS.

Military Works Department—On return from leave in England, Major Blunt, Royal Engineers, is posted to Mhow Division, Military Works.

On return from general leave in India, Lieutenant Tilliard, Royal Engineers, is posted to Quetta Circle, Military Works.

The Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces is pleased to make the following appointments :—

29th Bombay Infantry—Surgeon-Captain Leumann, Indian Medical Service, to Medical charge, vice Surgeon-Captain Heath, Indian Medical Service, permanently transferred to the Civil Department.

Army Medical Staff—The following transfers are ordered :—Surgeon-Major Birch, from Quetta District, to Sind District ; Surgeon-Captain L. D. Mason, from Sind District, to Bombay District ; and Surgeon-Captain Taylor, from Aden District to Poona District ; this cancels the posting of Surgeon-Captain Taylor, notified in Bombay Command Order No. 130 of 1897 ; and Surgeon Captain Beryman, from Mhow District to Bombay District.

Under instructions received from the War Office, it is notified that Lieutenant Kelsall, No. 21 Company, Sappers and Miners, has been appointed Adjutant and Instructor in Gunnery to the Royal Artillery at Rangoon.

The undermentioned officers have leave of absence :—

20th Hussars—Major Weston, 6 months, on private affairs, out of India.

Lancashire Fusiliers (2nd Bn.)—Captain Samson, 12 months, on private affairs, out of India.

South Lancashire Regt (2nd Bn)—2nd Lieutenant Dawson, 6 months, on private affairs, out of India.

Unattached List—British Army—Second Lieutenant Carpenter, 6 months, on medical certificate, out of India.

Wiltshire Regiment (1st Bn)—Major Carter, 8 months, on private affairs, out of India.

Wiltshire Regiment (1st Bn.)—Lieutenant Broadbridge, 6 months, on private affairs, out of India.

Staff Corps—Captain Hatherall, Wing Commander, 22nd Bombay Infantry, for one year, on private affairs, out of India.

Under Rule 1 of Furlough Regulations of 1875, Royal Artillery, Colonel Fletcher, Inspector-General of Ordnance, Bombay Command, ninety days, from the 25th March, 1897, or the date of departure, on privilege leave, to Mahableshwar.

Extensions—Royal Engineers—Captain Baddeley, Bombay Sappers and Miners, 12 days, without pay, on urgent private affairs, granted by the Secretary of State for India.

5th Bombay Light Infantry—Captain Caulfield, 2 months, on private affairs, granted by the Secretary of State for India.

Ordnance Department—Honorary Lieutenant and Assistant Commissary Heapy, 6 months, on medical certificate, granted by the Secretary of State for India.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

PORT SAID, MARCH 18.

The R. I. S. N. Company's steamer Matiana left here this morning.

LIVERPOOL, MARCH 18.

The Clan Line steamer Clan Macpherson left here for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, this morning.

HONGKONG, MARCH 19.

The P. and O. Co.'s steamer Java left Hongkong, London this afternoon.

SINGAPORE, MARCH 19.

The P. and O. Co.'s steamer Bombay (extra), left Singapore last night to-day.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, MARCH 18.

Cotton Market closed firm. Surats

[illegible] 3 12-32
[illegible] Market has been steady.
[illegible] Deposits 111 15-16
[illegible] Notes ..... 1021 ex.
[illegible] Rupee Loan 117
[illegible] Rupee Paper 63
[illegible] 28 9-16

The Bank of England returns for the week ending [illegible] show the following results :—Total Bullion [illegible] increase, £300,000 ; Public Deposits, [illegible] decrease, £282,000 ; Other Deposits, [illegible] increase, £103,000 ; Other Securities, [illegible] Increase £58,000 ; Notes and Gold [illegible] increase 390,000. The Bank's Reserve is [illegible] the Liabilities.

GAZETTE OF INDIA NOTIFICATIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT).

CALCUTTA, MARCH 19.

A Notification from the Revenue and Agricultural Department, in the "Gazette," records the Governor-General's high appreciation of the services of Sir E. Buck, during the fifteen years in which he held the office of Secretary in the Revenue Department. A series of resolutions, which are the direct outcome of conferences held by Sir E. Buck with the authorities of various Provinces, during the cold weather of 1895 and 1896, are also published. They summarise the past progress, and indicate the line in which in future advance should be made in carrying out the recommendations of the Commission which was appointed to advise the Secretary of State how best to diminish the severity of the famine and to place the people in a better condition for enduring it.

Finance and Commerce Department—The official rate of exchange for the Adjustment of financial transactions between the British and Indian Governments for 1897-98 has been fixed at 1s. 2½d. per Rupee.

Mr. W. H. Dobbie, Officiating Deputy Comptroller-General and Mr. H. G. H. Keene, Officiating Comptroll, Hyderabad, are confirmed in those appointments.

Home Department.—The Services of Surgeon-Lieutenant Thomson are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of the North-West Provinces.

The services of Lieutenant Ormiston are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Burma for employment as officiating Cantonment Magistrate, Mandalay.

Foreign Department.—The services of Colonel H. S. Stewart are replaced at the disposal of the Military Department.

The Governor-General is pleased to recognise the appointment of Mr. J. Millet as Consular Agent for France in Madras.

The services of Mr. Manners Smith are replaced at the disposal of the Public Works Department.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. Abbot is granted furlough for 14 months.

Public Works Department.—The services of Major Baldwin, R. E., are placed at the disposal of the Government of Bengal.

Lieutenant R. G. King, R. E., is appointed to the Public Works Department as Assistant Engineer, 3rd grade, and his services are placed at the disposal of the Director-General of Railways.

WESTERN INDIA CHAMPIONSHIP LAWN-TENNIS DOUBLES.

The only tie in the doubles was won, yesterday, by Messrs. Fischer and Hume, who beat fairly easily their opponents, Messrs. W. Reid and H. Cheetham. The first set was a good one, and some of the rallies were much applauded by the spectators. The attack on both sides might probably be called weak, as in both pairs one man played a net game whilst the other remained on the back line, which is not generally considered as strong a combination as when both players play close up. The first set was very even, Messrs. Hume and Fischer winning the odd game; but in the second set Messrs. Reid and Cheetham only secured three games. The Championship Cup to be held for a year thus goes to Messrs. Hume and Fischer.

MILITARY NEWS.

LIEUTENANT D. BRADY, R.E., is permitted to revert to the Home establishment.

MAJOR E. BLUNT, R. E., is, on return from leave, posted to the Bombay Command, Military Works Department.

LIEUTENANT R. G. KING, R. E., is transferred from the Military Works Department to the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

THE following remain at home on extended leave:—Captain Caulfield, 5th Bombay Infantry, two months ; Lieutenant Kincaid, Royal Engineers, six months.

THE services of Lieutenant H. H. Austin, R. E., have been placed temporarily at the disposal of the Foreign Department for employment on the Hyderabad-Godaveri Railway.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. D. COOPER, 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers, will take the Annual Inspection of the Bombay Volunteer Rifle Corps instead of the General Officer Commanding.

SURGEON-MAJOR J. STEVENSON, A.M.S., is appointed senior Medical Officer, Deesa, vice Surgeon-Major J. F. Brodie, A. M. S., proceeding home on the expiration of his tour of Indian Service on the 24th Instant.

2ND-LIEUTENANT G. NEWCOME, Unattached list, attached 2nd Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, on completion of a year's duty with a British regiment, on the 20th March, is posted to the 30th Bombay Infantry, and will join his regiment at Karachi.

ON arrival in India, for a tour of duty, Lieutenant H. Woods, R. E., is posted to the Bombay Command, Military Works Department ; 2nd-Lieutenants A. Brough and B. J. Haslam to the Madras Command, and 2nd-Lieutenant R. J. C. Exner to the Bengal Command.

THE following officers are permitted to return to duty :—Lieutenant-Colonels Gartside-Tipping, 1st B. C. E. Baffs, Judge-Advocate General's Department, Major Valpiani, 25th Punjab Infantry, Surgeon-Major Sykes, 18th B. C., Captains Elphinstone, 7th Bombay Infantry, Tutte, 24th Punjab, 19th B. C., Hutchinson, 6th P. I., Lieutenants Bousfield, 20th M. L., Cheyne, 8th B. C., Alexander, 6th Bombay Cavalry, Davis, 3rd Infantry, Hyderabad Contingent, Smith, 4th B. C., W. F. Smith, S. C. (Commissariat Department.)

PASSENGERS BY THE HOMEWARD MAIL.

The P. and O. S. N. Co.'s s.s. Australia, Captain J. Reeves, will sail, to-day, for London, Brindisi, and Marseilles, with English mails, and the following passengers :—

FOR LONDON.

Aspinall, Maj and Mrs H
Arnold, Miss
Arnold, Mrs
Ashlin, Mr
Adams, Mr G
Adams, Miss
Adams, Miss
Abbott, Maj, Mrs and child
Bewley, Miss
Burnett, Mr and Mrs A S
Broucke, Mr
Burn, Mr F Seton
Barnard, Mr and Mrs R C H
Bonhard, Mr A
Begbie, Mrs
Banner, Mr, Mrs and child
Browne, Mr L W
Bicroy, Mrs
Burett, Mr G
Butler, Mr H
Batten, Mr Mrs and Miss
Bond, Capt H G
Byars, Mr and Mrs and infant
Campbell, Mrs
Cunliffe, Miss
Chambers, Hon G L
Cooke, Maj E
Church, Mr P W
Cobb, Mr H V
Colvett, Maj
Campbell, Mr R D
Copeland, Mrs
Chitty, Mrs J and infant
Cole, Capt Wells
Chance, Capt
Campbell, Mr J
Darrah, Mrs H A
Dixon, Mrs and infant
Daren, Miss
Dunsterville, Mrs and infant
Deasey, Capt
Emerson, Mr and Mrs
E cb, Mr and Mrs J
Elloy, Mr H H
Elsie, Mr R P
Eliot, Hon Mrs
Frost, Mr and Mrs
Filgate, Col
Frost, Mr C E
Frost, Miss
Gould, Mr F
Guinness, Miss
Gowes, Mr H
Hampden, Miss Hobart
Hogan, Maj E, Mrs and infnt
Holdon, Mr, Mrs H E and infant
Hallone, Capt C
Hudson, Sir Wan I and Lady
Hadding, Mr and Mrs J
Hart, Brig Genl, Mrs and Miss
Harrison, Mrs P R and 2 infts
Hutchinson, Capt, Mrs and child
Hudson, Mr
Hinde, Brig Surg
Holmes, Miss
Hobson, Mr J
Hill, Mrs Norman
Hunt, Capt V E
Hill, Mr F W J
Hinde, Mr and Mrs J
Hampden, Mr and Mrs Hobart
Hutchison, Mr
Hartmann, Mr
Hurlest, Mr
Hart, Mr and Mrs G G H
Hardy, Mrs and infant
Hale, Mr E S
Irving, Miss
Irving, Professor
Joy, Miss
Jackson, Mrs and Miss
Johnstone, Capt F
Jolan, Mr E and Mrs
Jorn, Mrs N A
John Miss K
John, Miss L
Kilburn, Miss
Klett, Capt and Mrs
Kennedy, Miss
Kay, Dr W
Kohl, Mr
Kapurthala, H H the Maharaja of, and 2 gentlemen attendants
Kaulbert, Mrs and infant
Lockhart, Lieut Gen Sir W and Lady
Lester, Rev
Leslie, Mr Norman
Lang, Mr and Mrs
Luke, Mr P V
Lewinton, Mr E W
Lehmann, Capt F H
Lowis, Mr
Laughton, Col A F
Lockie, Mrs
Lowes, Mrs Eva and two children
Mathew, Miss A
Martin, Miss
Moultrie, Lieut H E
Monckton, Mr F F
Maxwell, Mrs
Mein Mrs
Mansfield, Mrs and child
Montgomery, Maj F Lyons
Mayer, Mr and Mrs
Montgomery, Mrs
Molesworth, Mr and Mrs
Macdonald, Mr T M
Macomachie, Mr and Mrs A P
McCorkle, Mr G
Misra, Mr B
Mills, Mr S G
Normans, Mrs and 2 children
Newton, Mr C C
Owen, Mr W
Parkinson, Mr, Mrs W and 2 children and infant
Pottinger, Mrs and child
Parker, Capt J
Price, Mr
Powell, Major
Robb, Miss
Bailey, Mr W L, Mr and child
Reynolds, Mrs H W, child and infnt
Ryder, Lieut J H D
Raby, Mr J Rudd
Rainey, Mr H J
Ralph, Mrs and infant
Robertson, Miss
Stewart, Mr H M
Symon, Lieut W C
Steel, Mr H D
Seaman, Brig Surg Lieut Col
Mrs A W, and infant
Stephenson Miss
Smith Mr and Mrs
Maynok, Miss
Norman, Mrs and infant
Plunkett, Mrs and child
Pomeroy, Hon Mr R E
Rose, Miss Campbell
Simmons, Mr N S
Spencer, Mr F D

FOR BRINDISI.

Bantor, Mr W H
Cama, Mrs H P
Colley, Miss
Gale, Mr and Mrs M G H
Jones, Miss
Lazarus, Mr
Lamb, Miss K M
Mactier, Lt H M

TELEGRAPHIC LINE REPORT.

MARCH 19.

STATE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Via Teheran, perfect. Via Turkey, perfect. Via Suez, perfect.

CONTINENT OF EUROPE.—Via Teheran, perfect. Via Turkey, perfect. Via Suez, perfect.

AMERICA.—Via Brest, perfect. Via Valentia, perfect. Via Direct Cables, perfect.

AUSTRALIA.—Via Penang, perfect. Via Amoor, perfect. Via Bhamo, interrupted.

CHINA.—Via Penang, perfect. Via Amoor, perfect. Via Bhamo, interrupted.

AFRICA.—Via Aden, perfect. Via Cadiz-Tenerife, perfect. Via Lisbon, St. Vincent, perfect.

Amoor route right.

Line Saigon Bangkok right.

Bhamo route to China interrupted beyond the British frontier between Nampoang and Tingyueh.

Telegrams for stations in Uruguay except Montevideo must be written in plain Spanish.

MR. ELIOT COLVIN will act as Political Agent Eastern States, Bhutan, when Lieutenant-Colonel Newill proceeds on leave next month.

A FEW REMARKS OFF THE BIKE.

This is not a scientific lecture. If it were I should certainly have headed it differently. Scientific people always lecture on a thing ; or endeavour to, for I have known the most scientific of them wander away from the point and ramble about and only come back to it again just as you are looking for your hat and stick and smothering a yawn and hoping you can go home. No, I don't want to be scientific. I want rather to speak plainly and let people understand what I am talking about. At first I did think it might be necessary to bring in a few Latin quotations, so while I was making my notes, etc., and writing headings and classifying, and all that, I just got one of those Latin quotation books (so useful they are) and buried myself in it for two hours and a-half. But try as I might I could find nothing appropriate to a bike, and I had to give it up. I should very much have liked to bristle with quotations something in the following style : "Patria cara, carior libertas—" which translated means—(I always think it's kinder to give the translations immediately—; I know I hate to be very interested in something and suddenly find myself knocked all of a heap you might say by something in French or Latin of which I can't make head or tail of)—but where was I ? Oh, of course, the translation—well, it means just this—"My country is dear, but liberty is dearer." A very noble sentiment, isn't it ? I've copied it out into my note-book, and I hope at some future time that I may be able to bring it into use, but in the present article I am afraid I can't apply it. There were lots of others, all very highly flavoured and full of virtue and the right way to behave, but there is no doubt about it they were none of them suitable. Of course the Ancient Romans didn't have bikes, poor things. When they went out they rode the noble horse, or stood up in a two-wheeled conveyance with no back to it. Though as far as I can make out from Cæsius and other gentlemen of the period, they rarely went out at all, but jogged along from one feast to another until they really souldn't eat any more and had to take it out in sleep a bit. They never had parades and New Year proclamations, and all that sort of thing, but they were very fond of reciting poetry and delivering speeches, in which I suppose they made free use of all those quotations I've alluded to, and on the whole they managed to enjoy life as much as it would appear to be possible to do without bikes.

For it has come to this. Life without a bike at the conclusion of the nineteenth century is an impossibility. There ! I've made my point—and like our scientific lecturer I should now like to rub my hands through my hair and push up my spectacles and beam on my audience with one great all-comprehending smile ; Yes, I have reached my point (which after all is something to be proud of, since some people never even do that much !), but how to go on with it ? I am aware that I ought to write an introduction and then carefully lead up to the subject, and then attack the subject itself, and tear it to pieces and leave it hanging in shreds, and then go and pick up the little bits cautiously and fail, and finally write a conclusion, and a moral, and there you have your essay and your article, or whatever you are pleased to have it, all packed up and qualified, and A. B. C.'d so that you cannot possibly get off the rocks ; but somehow this method won't suit with a bicycle. I feel convinced of that. I am very much afraid of my bicycle ; I handle it with great awe, and mount and dismount it with great care. I would not like, even in my most secret and innermost thoughts, to speculate on my bicycle and pull it to pieces. I know I should never get it together again. When I came out here (to India) two months ago, I had ordered my bicycle—a brand new one, to be sent after me,—and I shall never forget my feelings on the arrival of that bicycle. The man had promised it should be sent out to me whole. " Oh, yes, sir," he had said quite cheerfully," I need only take off the handles and the treadles and the saddle and the front wheel and the brake and the cyclometer and the—and—oh, yes, sir, yoush all get your bicycle in beautiful order. Just put a screw in here and a screw in there, and you'll find it standing on its own legs." Now that bicycle did not stand of itself. I suppose there was a screw loose somewhere, at any rate it wobbled so atrociously that I had to take it to the regimental armourer, and he kept it ten days, and then said there was nothing the matter with it, and that I had put it together beautifully. He might have said so a little sooner, but then the armourer is a very busy man. He mends clocks and watches and ladies' bracelets and makes mechanical toys and altogether is a most ingenious person. I envy that armourer. He is so busy and so happy. More than that, he is so full of fun. Yes, I envy that armourer, perhaps some day I may be able to envy myself. Well, then, I had my bicycle, you see, put together, as the armourer had said, and he is a man who knows, quite beautifully. In that there must have been a special providence aiding and abetting, for no one should have got anything at all and got together right, was a most obvious accident. But, alas ! there the special providence has stopped in its patronage.

The bicycle is indeed ready ; the how and the man are not. I look at it very longingly ; I examine it from every point of view ; I walk round every now and then, to put it and say "Soho—lad soho—woa ! Not that it is a restive bicycle. No, it is a patient animal ; it looks ludicrously docile as I hold it and stand by it and smooth down the saddle ; but when I cling to the handles and try to mount ; I make little runs and jumps and hops, and then another three little steps and another hop and then one big step and one big hop and one gigantic breathless effort—then that bicycle asserts itself. Then it heels over to one side, and even supposing by some extraordinary piece of fortune that I do succeed in the end in getting it together again, it heels over to the other side, immediately, without the slightest hesitation, and then it ends—very naturally as everything else ends. Here, if I were a scientific person, I should start soliloquizing. It ends in dust and the bearer comes and brushes my clothes and I pay him a few annas, who I think I may designate as my very best friend) offered to come and help me. "Don't think," I said, "that you are going to ride my bicycle, because that would be against all the fixed principles of bicyclists. You would break the machine, probably, but you would certainly break up our friendship." Jones assured me he wished for neither of those calamities ; he only wanted to prevent my making quite such a fool of myself. " All the station," he said, " is waiting to see you ride your bicycle."

Encouraged by this new aspect of myself as a sort of public exhibitor and small(albeit dusty) hero, I accepted Jones' offer. He held the bicycle and I got on. I got off again the other side, however, without knowing quite why. Jones abused me, and I abused Jones. Then we started again, and then all my many attempts, we got off. It was grand ! what an exhilarating feeling it is to go sailing through the air. No effort at all when Jones is pushing behind—I wish Jones would always push —faster and faster—and the treadles spin round, so I can scarcely touch them with my feet—and Jones panted terribly, and I felt as much out of breath I survey—when—I think it was the dog, I am sure—it was the dog—there was a dog, I know, though Jones says there wasn't. Anyway, something occurred which put the bicycle off its balance, and in a second we were all of a heap in the road ; Jones unconscious, of course, and the bicycle on top, thank Goodness ! Jones, I believe, was very badly bruised and shaken ; he told me he was, anyway, and not in very polite terms, but I was far too much occupied in examining the bike, and seeing if it had sustained any injuries, to heed him. I have seen him since, and we have shaken hands and laughed over it, but though I am confident our friendship is unchanged, Jones has not offered his assistance again. The bike, I am glad to say on that memorable occasion remained unhurt. I did not attempt to ride for some days after that, but on receiving an invitation for Xmas to stay with some people who I knew possessed bikes, I resolved to take mine with me. I could, however, not bear the thought of parting with my bike and putting it in the van, so I persuaded two other fellows who were travelling my way to reserve a second-class compartment with me, and into the compartment I triumphantly brought my bike. Somehow or another it was a failure. Whenever one of those chaps moved they caught in the handles or in the treadles of the bike, and then they cursed it and I cursed them and finally they got out at a station and went away into another carriage. I was very sorry, but still I had my bike and I knew that it was safe, whereas who could tell what horrors might not be perpetrated on it in the van of an Indian railway train ? I was a little disappointed with my Christmas visit. I thought my friends would have been so pleased to see my bike and would have been kind and sympathetic ; but they scarcely noticed it. There was a great deal going on, and we lived in a horrible rush, and I suppose they really had not time to help me learn and give me hints. They seemed to take it for granted that I could ride more or less ; they always went everywhere on their bikes, they loved it so ! " You can come on your bike or in the dog-cart, Mr. ——," they would however say very thoughtfully, when the day's programme was being made out, " whichever you prefer."

Somehow I always preferred the dog-cart.

But I really didn't mean to tell you all this ! I meant my remarks to be quite different. I meant really to criticise the bike ; its wheels ; its treadles, and its bearings, particularly ball-bearings. I meant to explain the tyres to you and give a receipt to prevent their melting in the hot weather. I see I've done nothing of the sort. I certainly got to the point, but there I seemed to have stayed. Never mind ; I'm not a very hard-worked person. What I haven't said this time, I can say next ! And besides—" Le secret d'ennuyer est celui de tout dire," which translated means—but Pudgeny to say I can't find my note-book ; I must give you the translation next time. Next time, I hope soon, though I fear at present that time looks a bit far away, so before on, and not off the bike.

ALEX. HOLMES.

TABLE TALK.

[BY WALTER BESANT.]

LONDON, FEB. 26.

Here followeth the story of the wicked priest Palumbus. He lived in Rome, and he occupied the whole of his time in making devils do what he commanded. The secret of his power, though claimed by many, is believed to have died with him. It is still survives, his successors will, perhaps, take his example for a warning. It was at Rome, in the year 1058, in the Pontificate of Stephen, tenth of the name, that a certain young noble of the city was celebrating his wedding feast. After the banquet he went out with his friends to play at ball, and, for fear of losing it, he slipped his wedding ring on the finger of a bronze statue in the playground. Wen the game was finished, imagine his consternation to find the finger bent into the palm, and the ring firmly held there. This part of the story, remember, is old. After trying to break or bend the finger, with no success, he returned to his companions, concealing the fact. After dark, however, he came again, and, to his still greater amazement, found the finger straight again, and the ring gone. He then became sensible of something with him that remained always with him ; it could not be seen, nor could it be felt ; but it was there. And it possessed a voice which whispered " I am Venus. Tou hast married me. Thou hast placed thy ring upon my finger." Seeing that this dreadful bride would not leave him, the youth asked advice. "This," said his friends, "is a case for Palumbus. There is no one like Palumbus." Accordingly the youth laid the case before this priest, who, after considering is a while, sat down and wrote a letter. "Hast thou courage!" he asked. "Well—in that case—take this letter. Go at midnight to a certain place where crossroads meet. There will thou see an endless multitude of all ranks and conditions passing by. Speak not ; answer not ; be silent. Presently there will pass one superior to the rest. Give him the letter without a word." The young man obeyed. He gazed upon the multitude without so much as asking what they were doing there and why they came. At last there came along in a chariot set with diamonds and emeralds one of haughty aspect. To him the youth presented the letter. The demon —it was none other than a demon—behaved in a most surprising manner. For he read the letter, and then threw up his arms to heaven, asking how long Palumbus was to continue in his wickedness. This astonishing demon was actually indignant with Palumbus on account of his wickedness ! Henceforth, let us think better of one demon, at least. However, the youth got his ring, and with the ring his bride, and the ghost of Venus vanished. But Palumbus, on hearing the observation of the demon, saw that his time was come, and therefore, by way of penance, took a knife and cut off all his own limbs, one by one—and so he died.

There was an agreeable and pleasant superstition among the Anglo-Saxons (or the English, if you prefer). It was the practice of "sticking" an enemy. A pin would do, or a tintack, or the point of a needle. The thing was to draw blood. This done, the operator either repeated a form of incantation, or used certain drugs and magic materials, or in some other way invited the devil to assist in causing that wound to grow and spread and mortify and putrefy and bring on death. The method of procedure was known to everybody, and if a person felt the prick of a pin, or the stab of a knife, in any unexpected place, he knew perfectly well what was happening, and if he was weak he went home and lay down to die ; if he was brave he tried opposing charms, which sometimes killed his enemy. Now, there was one Elfsie, of famous London Town, who had one enemy—I forget his name. The enemy stuck him ; Elfsie knew who had done it ; he made sure that his enemy's mother was most powerful in the art and mystery of sticking. He, therefore, gave it up, went to bed, told his neighbours what had happened, and died. But there was murmuring ; then there was harassing ; then there was wrath ; then there was a rush for the house of the wise woman ; her son, the enemy who had done the sticking, got over the garden wall, and so out of the City Gates into space and oblivion, for he is heard of no more. As for the wise woman, they lynched her. They dragged her through the streets to London Bridge—then the old Roman bridge of wood—and they hurled her over the railings into the rolling river below, as it fell roaring through the timbers and the piles with the ebbing tide.

Let me introduce a little line of research which may be entered upon without fear of undue fatigue. It is the variation in the prevalent Christian name from age to age. For instance, I will conaribute a note on the Christian names of the fifteenth century. There exists a list of some of Jack Cade's followers, with the Christian name as well as the surname—the latter was well established by that time. I have gone through the whole list and have classified the Christian names. To begin with there is not a single Saxon name among them all. Alfred, Ethelred, Edgar, Howard, and the rest—they are all gone ; there is not even an Edward among them, though, there had been three consecutive kings of that name. Why this disappearance ? Had the people clean forgotten their Saxon origin ? I take it that they had. The Norman Conquest, the mythical legend—nobody taught history—the present order was supposed to be immutable. Then the churches formerly dedicated to Saxon Saints, had been mostly rebuilt and dedicated to the Saints who came over with William. Again, it is a common tendency of the lower class to imitate their superiors—so the hinds and the rustics took the Christian names of the Barons and the Signeurs. However, my classification shows that there were, of John, 546 ; of William, 277 ; of Thomas, 233 ; of Richard, 196 ; of Robert, 115. This accounts for 1367 out of 1719. These represent the prevalent names. Nine other names take between them 347. There remain 105. Most of these are names of Saints or of Biblical characters—among them Christopher, Adam, David, Vincentius, Valentine, Sampson, and Clement. Another and a smaller list of 130 names gave much the same classification.

The names of women belonging to the same period are also nearly all, but not quite, Norman-French. Some of them are very pretty—such as Petronilla, Idonea, Elecota, Charicia, Godiyeva, Desiderata, Fyma, and Massilia. It is pleasant to find such pretty and carefully chosen names given to the daughters of this fighting generation. They were soft hearted, you see, just as much as their descendants, over their girls. I will try next week to present the prevalent Christian name at another period.

Some of us expected, when the Free Library was first established among us, a good deal more than we have got up to the present. But we must have patience. Readers are increasing very fast, students not in the same proportion. Besides, a Library can only exercise its full influence when it has books. Inquiries of mine have led me to the discovery that few of them have anything like the number or the choice of books which they should have. When the staff have to make their own very small salaries, when the newspapers and magazines have been bought, and when the books have been kept in repair—the expense of rebinding and repairing is very considerable—there generally remains a very small sum to be spent on books. In many cases there are donations, gifts of books presented, but always the kind of book one would like to have upon the shelves or to give out. People will have fiction, new and old, but a library all fiction would be considered even by those who read nothing else, imperfect. There ought to be a good Reference Library containing the "Encyclopædia Britannica"; the "Conversations Lexicon"; the "Dictionary of National Biography"; special dictionaries of languages, arts, crafts, and so forth ; technical books ; educational books ; and what are called standard books. Sometimes I find these books are presented. Now, as Free Libraries are starting up within every body's reach, and as there are a great many who would encourage them if possible, I should like to suggest that those who have books to spare should send to the Librarian a list of what they can give, and allow him to choose. We must not consider the Free Library as a dustheap ; nor must we think we are doing a righteous action if we get rid of our book rubbish by throwing it into the Free Library.

Are not all the signs pointing to great changes in our Drama ? I do not mean that finer work is appearing, but that there is every indication not only of gradual departure, but of complete severance from the conventional drama. The woman who leaves a compromising letter about ; the woman who is blackmailed ; the woman who has a past ; the women who has a doubtful present ; she seems to be taking leave of her former patrons. I go very little to the Theatre ; my own opinion is worth nothing ; but I venture to suggest certain indications of change. The religious play has appeared—I have expected it for a long time ; there are certain new plays which are certainly not conventional ; the old farce is gone ; the old burlesque is gone. Alas ! what would not one give to be able to go back a quarter of a century and see once more Nelly Farren and Toole—that joyous pair—that droll and mirthful pair—whose humour was spontaneous and natural—in the " Princess of Trebizonde ? " No doubt the change will prove for the better ; there will be a chance for the great dramatist who has to appear ; our stalls will not be contented with the commonplace and the threadbare ; even the fall of the footman with the china will no longer be received as a fine and original situation ; and our playwrights, who can now be counted on the fingers, will, like our novelists, be counted by the hundred.

I have had several letters in answer to those queries on the effects of long-continued abstinence from Art and music. One gentleman writes to say that since I have "thrown down the challenge" he means to answer it. Very well ; but I have thrown down no challenge. I only ask a question. What is the effect, if any effect is observable, upon a family which has for several generations belonged to the Society of Friends ? Has their life killed the artistic impulse ? All the correspondence that I have received points to the contrary. Strange as it may seem, where the Friends have relaxed their old rules and permitted themselves to admit Art of all kinds, it is found that many of them show the most remarkable powers and gifts in artistic work, whether in music, painting, drawing, singing, or anything else. It is as if the powers had been bottled up and handed down from one generation to another, only to burst out with greater strength when the time should come. This is an unexpected result. One would have thought that the effect of —say—six generations without music, or painting, or drawing would have been to deaden the ear to harmony and the eye to form and colour. But no—one cannot drive out Nature either with a pitchfork or with a meeting house.

As for that other little point about the introduction of turnips to this country, I have been reminded of a passage in Gerard's "Herbal." He answers the question. " There be sundry sorts of turnips ; some wild ; some of the garden ; some with round roots, globe fashion ; some oval or pear fashion ; and another sort longish, or somewhat like a radish ; and of them there are many varieties." The root therefore grew wild in this country.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

A MEETING of the members took place at the Society's Rooms on Thursday the 18th inst., Dr. D. Macdonald presiding.

NEW MEMBERS.

The election of the following new members was announced :—Prince Kumar Shri Ranjit Singhji of Sanjeli (Poona), Mr. L. S. Hudson (Bombay), Mr. J. G. Counsell (Bombay), Mr. W. H. H. Vincent, I. C. S. (Alipore), Mr. Robert W. R. Pennington (Bombay), Lieut. J. H. Whitehead (Mandalay), Mr. E. Gabbett, C.E. (Rangoon), Major K. S. Dansterville, R. A. (Allahabad), Capt. L. M. Foster (Kirkee), Mr. P. J. Variey, I. C. S. (Dhulia), Mr. John L. Morres (Poona), Lieut. G. Warnsford (Manipore), Mr. H. H. Hains (Jalpaiguri), Lieut. K. E. Naugle (Ellichpore), Mr. E. Ernest Green, F. E. S. (Ceylon), Mr. J. Hope Simpson, I. C. S. (Jhansi), Mr. F. J. Donald (Jalpaiguri), Mr. Maung Po Hla (Burma), Mr. Henry Partridge (Burma), Captain R. P. Cobold, F. G. S. (Bombay), Mr. Robert L. H. Clark, I. C. S. (Bulandshahr), Mr. Richard Davidson (Jalpaiguri), Mr. William Finlay (Jalpaiguri), Sir George F. Hampson, Bart., F. Z. S., F. E. S. (England), Captain W. J. Ryder (Dharmsal), Mr. T. M. Rodes, (N. Cachar Hills), Mr. W. Mayhan (N. Cachar Hills), and William L. Edmiston (Kotagiri).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

Mr. H. M. Phipson, the Honorary Secretary, acknowledges receipt of the following contributions of the Society's Museum since the last meeting :—

Contribution.	Description.	Contributor.
1 Green Tree Snake alive.	Trimeresurus Sp	Mr. Simmonds.
2 Gazelles alive from Sualkim.	Lithocranius Walleri	Major R. G. Egerton.
1 Cobra alive.....	Naga tripudians	Lieut. L. S. Gillespie, R. E.
1 Turtles alive	Emyda vittata	Do.
A collection of dried plants.	.....	Mr. G. M. Woodrow.
1 Snake	Dipsas trigonata	Vet. Capt. J. Anderson.
A number of land shells.	.....	Mr. F. Ede.
A number of fresh water shells.	.....	Mr. A. Constable.
1 Dun Bird.....	Fuligula rufina	Major A. Fraser.
A collection of Assam butterflies.	.....	Mr. G. Warnesford.
1 Snake.....	Dipsas trigonata	Mr. H. W. Barraw.
1 Chameleon alive ..	Chamæleon calcaratus	Mrs. Gilbert.
1 Steppe Eagle	Aquila fulvescens	Major R. Light
1 Albino Tree Grey Rash Babbler alive	Argya malcolmi.....	Lieut. H. Napper.
1 Black capped Black bird.	Nerula nigropileus.....	Mr. W. F. Jardine
3 Grey Jung

showing that the epidemic still prevails most in the north of the Island. The Section Hospitals under course of erection under the new organisation, instituted by the Plague Committee, will soon be ready for use. 4,307 cart-loads of earth were deposited in the new Burial Ground at Tank Bunder. The average daily staff employed by the Engineering Department was over 4,000 and, the excess staff in the Health Department was about one thousand per diem. The decrease of mortality notwithstanding the continued influx of population, out of which many undoubtedly die from Famine fever, clearly indicates a subsidence of the plague, which, if the decrease continues, will in a few weeks seize to have the character of an epidemic.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

At 5 p.m., on Thursday, the Committee drove to Mr. Adamji Peerbhoy's Sanitarium opposite Chursey Road Gardens. Mr. Adamji Peerbhoy had very generously offered this building as hospital and segregation quarters for Borah community. The Committee inspected and approved of the building. The upper storey has been converted into wards for 15 male and 5 female patients. Two doctors have already been engaged for the male patients, namely, Dr. Vicoji and Dr. Ebrahim, with two hakims (Mulla Abdul Ali Mizree and Mulla Mahomed Reza) to assist them. The service of a lady doctor, Mrs. Beale, has been obtained for the female patients. Six nurses and twelve ward boys have been engaged. Quarters for the Medical Staff, nurses, and dispensary are also on the upper floor. The Borah community numbers 8,000 persons. There have hitherto been only a few isolated cases of plague among them, and there are no patients at present. The hospital has been equipped and staff provided entirely at Mr. Adamji's own expense. The following members of the community were present :—Messrs. Adamji Peerbhoy, Mahomedali Adamji Peerbhoy, Kazi [illegible], Haji Abdul Satar, Sharif Ali Mamooji, Lukmanji Sulemanji, Shaikh Fazullabhoy, and Shaikh Adam Yusufbhai.

The Committee next proceeded to Bazaar Gate Gardens, where they met Surgeon-Major Damania and the Justices of the Peace of his district. The Chairman addressed the J. P.'s on the subject of house-to-house visitation.

The Committee then drove to the hospital, now in course of erection at Modi Khana, and found the work proceeding very satisfactorily.

The Committee met, at 4 p.m., yesterday, Dr MacCarthie at the District Staff Office to settle the about influx at the boarders. They also inspected the Port Trust disinfected store.

QUARANTINE AT MAHABELSHWAR.

On the subject of quarantine at Mahabeshwar the orders of Government are as follows :—

The following persons are exempted from quarantine, but should be medically inspected on arrival and may be again inspected as often as the Superintendent thinks necessary for a week after their arrival :—

(1) All Government servants travelling on duty.

(2) All servants of Europeans who produce certificates from their employers or from Medical men (a) they have been inoculated or (b) they have been in good health for ten days previously and will on arrival be sent to the Superintendent, or other officer appointed by him for the purpose, for medical inspection at such place as the Superintendent prescribes.

(3) All villagers in good health coming up from adjacent villages where there is no plague with supplies.

(4) All cart-drivers in good health : provided, however, that cart-drivers coming from Panchgani via Wai shall, with any passengers in their carts, be quarantined.

(5) All drivers and syces in good health belonging to public and private conveyances (drawn by horses or mules).

(6) All Europeans in good health.

(7) All Native gentlemen and their families in good health travelling in conveyances drawn by horses or mules and going either to hotels or private residences.

(8) All well-known and respectable traders in good health.

(9) All other persons who the Superintendent may specially except with or without conditions.

N.B.—By "good health" is meant "free from plague or reasonable suspicion thereof."

PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS.

During the twenty-four hours ending, at 6 o'clock, yesterday morning, there were admitted into the Arthur Road Hospital, ten patients, six died, and sixty-five remain under treatment. Two patients were admitted into the Hindu Hospital, at Sassoon Road, four died, and two were discharged cured, leaving twenty under treatment. There were two admissions into the Bapty Road Hospital, one was discharged cured, and seventeen remain under treatment. One patient was discharged cured from the Parsee Fever Hospital, leaving seventeen under treatment, there being no fresh admissions, nor deaths in it. There are at present two patients under treatment in the Khoja and Port Trust Hospitals each, neither fresh cases nor deaths being recorded therein during the period.

THE BORAH HOSPITAL.

As briefly stated in our last issue General Gatacre and other members of the Plague Committee paid a visit to the Borah Hospital, Mr. Adamjee Peerbhoy, deserves the thanks of his community for coming forward at this juncture to assist in the fight against the plague. A large number of Brahs and other Mahomedan leaders were present. Among them were Mr. Adamjee Peerbhoy, Mahomedali, J. P., Mr. Hakim Mahomed Dayam, J. P., Mr. Sharafali Mamaji, Mr. Kazi Kabiruddin, barrister-at-law, Mr. Lukmanji Sulemanji, Mr. Abdool Hoosein, J.P., Mr. Hasanali, Mr. Lukmanjee, Haji Abdul Satar, J. P.

The building, which is known as Mohomedi Mehel, has been utilised hitherto for a sanitarium and a school. About 300 Borah boys received elementary education there. All these boys are lodged, boarded, and educated free of charge. Scholarships have been given them and parental care is bestowed upon them by Mr. Adamjee. Since the outbreak of plague all the boys and their teaching staff have been transferred to Dhoraji, in Kathiawar at Mr. Adamji's own expense. The building intended for the hospital consists of three blocks. One portion will be devoted to the hospital accommodation and the remaining two will be reserved for segregation purposes. The portion of the building used formerly as a sanitarium will be given over for the hospital arrangement. A mosque is attached to the place. The building is open on all sides. Twenty beds have been made ready to receive the patients. The place is large and spacious enough to allow of an increase of beds to a very large number. The arrangement is made to provide room for the relatives of the patients who desire to stay there and look after their own friends. The patients and their relatives will be lodged, nourished, and medically treated free of cost. Every thing that can minister to the comfort of the sufferer will be done. The hospital and the segregation wards are placed under the charge of two doctors. One lady doctor and two Unani hakims have also been appointed. Women will be attended by a lady doctor, Mrs. Beale, and those who wish to be treated by hakims will be attended by Hakim Mahomed Dayam, J.P., and Hakim Moola Abdulli [illegible] Efendi. Dr. Ebrahim is put in charge of the segregation ward. Dr. Vicoji will also be in attendance. Special arrangements remain for all the medical men always to be present, so that their services may be available any time during the day and night. A sufficient number of nurses and ward-boys have been engaged to ensure the comfort of the patients. This is the first hospital opened for Borahs in Bombay. Mr. Mahomedali Adamjee Peerbhoy took Gen. and Mrs. Gatacre and his colleagues over the whole place. The General seemed himself thoroughly satisfied with what he saw. He said that in his opinion it is one of the best hospitals he has come across. Mr. Asad Hoosein Adamjee Peerbhoy, in their name assembly, said :

General Gatacre and Gentlemen,—I am glad I have an opportunity of thanking you on behalf of the Borah community. It is pleasing to see that the Governor of Bombay, his Excellency Lord Sandhurst, has appointed you to carry on the most arduous work in stamping out this plague in this city. No wish. Sanding the heavy responsibilities cast upon you, I can assure you, General, that the moment you address yourself this casualty you have made up your mind unanimously to die. The all hardships of all seasons and thankful to you for the undertaking which is carrying out your duties you have respected their religion and customs in such a way that they respond in you not only a brave soldier but a good administrator. It is a good fortune for the Mahomedans that you consent to undertake this heavy task. I have to thank you for encouragement and encouraging us in our efforts to do good.

Three cheers for General Gatacre were then given.

General Gatacre, in reply, said : Mr. Adamjee, I do not think I deserve the thanks you have bestowed upon me. Whatever little I have done, it is a duty that I owe to my fellow-creatures. I am glad that Mahomedans and their leaders are doing whatever lies in their power to assist the Plague Committee. I can say that what I have got man like Dr. Dinamark, Mr. James, and Major Cahusac to assist me there is a wonder that our Committee is progressing so well. I thank you for taking the trouble of establishing this hospital for your community. I trust I will progress well.

PRECAUTIONS AT BARODA.

We learn from Baroda that passengers alighting at the station in that city will be asked to undergo sulphur fumigation before entering the city. The long range of building near the station, known as Rao's Dharmsala, called after one of the famous past diwans of the State, also another dharmsala on the Camp road, will be utilised by the municipality in asking passengers from infected towns to put up there for some days before entering the city. All wholesale quarantine, which alone could be efficacious with certain reservations, is disallowed by his Highness's Government as impracticable. The various communities have been asked to put up segregation sheds for their relations and connections who choose to come at Baroda from infected places. The various Mahajans of the town have formulated their proposals in respect of detecting bubonic cases and segregating them, to the minister, while declining to adopting friendly methods to prevent exodus and disturbance, to which the common masses are usually prone. It was widely reported in the town that police-sepoys were arresting some persons in the streets, suspecting them to be suffering from bubonic fever, which incident was taken up as ready food for popular excitement. The Commissioner has proposed the Mahajans to put a stop to this procedure, though followed for their good, declaring at the same time that higher Municipal and police officials will be given the power of utilising medical assistance in recognising bubonic cases. The Mahajans informed him that there was every likelihood of the door to segregation being opened by the liberty taken. The Commissioner assured them that the very first instance where after will be dealt with severely to preclude every possibility of irregular action, however well-intentioned. His Highness, on the recommendation of the minister, and the State Public Works Department, has sanctioned Rs. 12,000 for any immediate unforeseen expenditure that may be incurred in the interests of the city. It is feared that as affected persons are not rigidly prevented from entering the city, plague cases are likely to break out, as two have already taken place, though strong efforts were made to stamp out the plague from the locality which it attacked. No fresh cases have occurred since. It is generally felt that if the City Commissioner is not given adequate powers over both ordinary and extraordinary expenditure, and the hanging routine set aside for a time, it must take its course to keep the plague out. The Municipal establishments at Baroda were never intended to cope with extraordinary plague emergencies, nor the scanty sanitary grant spent from year to year. Though highly favourable results have been shown, the major mark on the present emergency should equal all past achievements. The standard of the needs of a city like Baroda cannot be compared with the standard of other Native states which have benefitted from a contact of eighty years of civilised and progressive Government. The Maharaja has done well in giving the Executive the assistance of the Health Officer, Dr. A. D. Cooper, having been lately appointed. He was trained for the Covenanted Medical Service, and required a sanitary diploma in London.

THANA.

A correspondent, writing on the 18th instant, says:—The members of the Plague Committee held a meeting yesterday, in the office of the Hazar Deputy Collector, Thana, and resolved that all [illegible] should be collected among the residents [illegible] for which, in order to build [illegible] of the town as segregation quarters [illegible] well ventilated houses called bungalow [illegible] A large [illegible] at Balsar for [illegible] Villa, has been engaged [illegible] Municipal Segregation Hospital. [illegible] already, the segregation of all the Mahars went upon the Ewoor Hill, this morning, reciting verses from Al-Khoran on the way, and offered special prayers at the Tomb of Hajee Shaikh Sahib, Peac of Arab, and asked his help to drive away the bubonic plague from Thana. Rs. 12,000 have been already spent by the Municipality in digging bore-holes in almost all the streets of the town. The ceremonies of the Holi holidays have not been expected to be on a grand scale. Dead rats can now to have been found in the Municipal Office, near the Mamlatdar's cutchery. There were five cases and eight deaths yesterday. There are now twenty-two patients in the Municipal Segregation Hospital.

DAMAUN.

Gokhavi, a Machan, who was attending a patient in the plague hospital, was attacked, and died yesterday as Marwar. One Muzgan Indian Hindu, residing near Vanie Vad, was, on examination, by Dr. N. R. Saigaira, found to be attacked with bubonic fever, was removed to the plague hospital. Dr. Pereira, the and Health Officer, operated upon two children of the Machi caste, in the plague hospital, and these two children with another male and female Machi, all detained in the hospital, seem to progress well.

Sir Sorabji, with Mr. Francis Maitz, had an interview with his Excellency the Governor, yesterday, when his Excellency gave permission for several hospitals to be erected for different communities upon sites to be selected by the Health Officer. His Excellency gave Sir Sorabji to understand that the Government would depute a medical man to proceed to Bombay to study Dr. Haffkine's prophylactic inoculation.

HINDU FEVER HOSPITAL.

From 7 a.m., 18th March, to 7 a.m., 19th March, two patients have been admitted, four died, two discharged cured, two convalescent, leaving nineteen under treatment.

PLAGUE CONFERENCE AT LUCKNOW.

An influential deputation of Lucknow citizens waited upon Sir Lieutenant-Governor at Government House on Saturday morning, when the Honorable Messrs. Hewett, Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the Inspector-General of Hospitals and the Sanitary Commissioner were also present.

The Lieutenant-Governor addressed the deputation as the following effect :—You all know that a terrible illness has been [illegible] months in Bombay and, that a [illegible] part of the town is going [illegible] to the ravages of this authority. The nature of the disease is very obscure and no cure or remedy for it has yet been discovered. All we know about it is that it is more fatal than any other known malady, and the usual time in which it takes the fatal turn is two days. The only possibilities means of avoiding it is to segregate and remove the person affected from all to be [illegible] is the only course which can be adopted to cope on the disease. The doctors differ as to how far the disease is infectious, but to call the attention of our diligent Executive to what looks like an overlooking in this direction. Not only are the walls and floors of these buildings white-washed, but so are the very doors, windows, and ceilings promiscuously dealt with, which simply impart to the houses a ghastly appearance. This is literally attempting to [illegible] "Beautiful Bombay" of its birth to well-applied epithet. To form a tolerably good fitting of the hideousness of these buildings, etc., I shall only recommend a visit to some of the native parts of the town. Besides, what a mere addition it must be to poor landlords to see the costly paints on the doors and ceilings of their spacious dwelling so [illegible] unhandily dealt with, to say no thing of the expense which they will incur later in repairing their disfigured houses.

His Honor's remarks were much appreciated by the native gentlemen forming the deputation, and subsequently on an universal impression which the existing plague regulations were promised modification, it was understood, in some important particulars. The policy will not be permitted to segregate suspected cases without the direct authorisation of the Health Officer or other responsible medical authority. The proceedings then terminated.

During the day a great mass meeting has been held to protest against the epidemic disease rules in application. At passed off quietly, and it was announced that the Lieutenant-Governor would see all just grievances remedied.

POONA.

The City Municipal returns for the 24 hours ended at 8 a.m. on Tuesday show the following cases :—

Paths	Cases	Deaths.
Kasba	0	0
Nana	13	4
Mangalwar	0	0
Budhwar	6	2
Ganesh	1	0
Rambarda	1	1
Sakrwar	17	8
Raliwar	9	0
Vetal	2	0
Sadashiv	4	0
Shanwar	4	0
Reda	1	0
Bhavani	3	1
Nayan	0	0
Gani	0	0
Shivar	1	3
Nihal	0	0
Total	64	19
Total to date	880	621

The total mortality from all causes was 43.

Forty-four persons affected with the plague were sent to plague hospitals from this city during the above 24 hours.

The Cantonment Municipal returns for the above 24 hours show the following results :—

	Cases	Deaths.
Plague Hospital	25	14
Total to date	494	295

The parched grain seller who was sent to the plague hospital from the Cantonment on Tuesday died on the evening of the 15th instant.

The two cases in the plague hospital were all from the city of Poona.

PLAGUE CAMPAIGN.

The military campaign against the plague was opened on Tuesday morning at the usual hour. The search parties of Bengal Sappers and Miners, [illegible] in the cantonment compounds, were again engaged in searching the houses in the Ganesh and Rewarni Peths, and several persons in the latter path were found affected with the disease. They were removed to the plague hospitals for treatment, and all the inmates of the families were sent into the segregation camp. The [illegible] were engaged in cleansing the [illegible] Chamber's [illegible] Cantonment. The [illegible] operations were carried on in Bullock carts and paths.—*Bombay Gazette*.

THE PLAGUE IN KARACHI.

The Karachi municipality on Tuesday show 25 new cases and 12 deaths, to which to-day's figures are cases, 2,307, deaths 2,249. Hindus and Mahomedans are being [illegible] in about equal numbers, Parsees and Europeans [illegible] each. Dr. Lowe, in spite of segregation and hospital treatment, still heads the list. Sir Lady Dufferin Hospital is being filled as a segregation camp, and 12 patients were sent to it from the civil hospital. Several were discharged from the same hospital, results which are distinctly encouraging to the medical and nursing staff.

TOO MUCH WHITE-WASH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—The Municipal Executive, who have of late developed themselves heart and soul to stamp out the plague from our island, have secured something like a firm hold over its disastrous ravages. One of their measures is measures in the line-washing on a really portentous scale, of public as well as of private buildings, both inside and out. Without entering into any disputation on the properties of chuna as a disinfectant, I beg to call the attention of our diligent Executive to what looks like an overdoing in this direction. Not only are the walls and floors of these buildings white-washed, but so are the very doors, windows, and ceilings promiscuously dealt with, which simply impart to the houses a ghastly appearance. This is literally attempting to [illegible] "Beautiful Bombay" of its birth to well-applied epithet. To form a tolerably good fitting of the hideousness of these buildings, etc., I shall only recommend a visit to some of the native parts of the town. Besides, what a mere addition it must be to poor landlords to see the costly paints on the doors and ceilings of their spacious dwelling so [illegible] unhandily dealt with, to say no thing of the expense which they will incur later in repairing their disfigured houses.

Apart from the sure indecency of spoiling the wooden parts of these buildings, I must say, lime-washing is not productive of much good, since it not unfrequently simply conceals the really filthy condition of some parts of the wood-work. Brick-work and stone-works are different; the germs deposited thereon receive no additional nutriment, and are therefore readily dried up, so that white-washing these parts produces the desired effect. The better course, therefore, will be to cleanse all wood structures of ours with a so weak strong solution of carbolic acid or phenyle. They will not thus need [illegible] plastering.—Yours, &c.,

J. P. D.

ROWLAND'S ODONTO or Pearl Dentifrice while the teeth, prevents and arrests decay, and sweetens the breath; is free from any acid or gritty ingredients, and being most beautifully perfumed, is the most delightful tooth powder in use. Sold by Chemists and Stores. Ask for ROWLAND'S ODONTO to 20, Hatton Garden, London; and avoid worthless and noxious imitations.

THE FAMINE.

BOMBAY OFFICIAL REPORT.

During the week ending 13th instant the prices of food-grains have risen slightly in most of the affected districts. The general situation otherwise remains unchanged.

The progressive [illegible] of relief measures shows the average daily number of relief workers to be 291,052 as compared with 280,070 in the preceding week. The number of dependants on workers has decreased from 11,921 to 115,459. The inclusion of the Hanzund-Handwadgi road in Bijapur in the programme of relief-works has been sanctioned, and authority has been given to start the work as soon as the preparation of plans and estimates is sufficiently advanced. Compensation of Rs. 8,95 5 has been awarded for removing and rebuilding houses in the village of Kalosi in the Jath State which are on the line of the projected dam of the Tassia Tank in Belgaum. This work is expected to give employment to 20,000 persons, and labourers are being drafted to it from Bijapur in large numbers. A special officer has been appointed to acquire land for the Kasegaon-Kenjpal-Athni road relief-work. An estimate of Rs. 27,757 for carrying out as a relief-work repairs to a portion of the Nagar Sheygaon Rod in Ahmednagar, and one of Rs. 4,28 5 for tools and plant required for relief-works in Poona, have been approved. An estimate of Rs. 843 for completing surveys and plans of the Bhanga River protects in Ahmednagar, which it is intended to utilise as a famine relief-work, has also been sanctioned. The commencement of two road works in the Atakot State and of improvements to the Shahada Channel in Khandesh as relief-works has been authorised. One small work in Khandesh has been converted into a large work and a special Civil officer has been appointed to it. Additional special Civil officers have also been appointed for large works in Poona and Belgaum. Allowances of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively have been sanctioned for expenditure on small works, and improvement of water-supply in the Shohapur district during the ensuing financial year. The officers of the Sanitary Department have continued their inspection of relief-works in all the affected districts except Khandesh, and have selected sites for several new camps in Ahmednagar and Belgaum. The physical condition of workers and of non-working children and other dependants is reported to be generally satisfactory. Twenty-five weavers and 81 nursing mothers on two works were specially examined and found to be in good health. Three cases of cholera occurred in one relief camp at Bijapur, and one case in a camp at Sholapur, and several cases of small-pox in different camps at Ahmednagar, Sholapur, and Nasik. The requisite steps have been taken to prevent the spread of the diseases. Prevalence of affections of the eyes is also reported from some camps.

The numbers on gratuitous relief in villages and poor-houses have increased from 20,856 in the preceding week to 23,194 in the week under report. The following allowances for the financial year 1897-98 have been made :—

	Sholapur. Rs.	Belgaum. Rs.
Gratuitous relief ...	47,000	—
Poor-houses ...	6,000	—
Kitchens ...	30,000	10,000

A further assignment of Rs. 10,979 has been made for tagai advances in the Sholapur District.

The accompanying statement shows the progress of operations for the supply of grass to the affected districts during the week ending 13th instant ; several new depots have been established for the sale of grass at railway stations in affected districts.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT COLABA.

A correspondent sends us an account of an entertainment by the sergeants of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, "The Faughs," at their mess on the evening of St. Patrick's day. Their pattern saint may well rest peacefully with such stalwart sons, as the Royal Dublins undoubtedly are. The Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the Inspector-General of Hospitals and the Sanitary Commissioner were also present.

The Lieutenant-Governor addressed the deputation on the following effect :—You all know that a terrible illness has been [illegible] months in Bombay and, that a [illegible] part of the town is going [illegible] to the ravages of this authority. The nature of the disease is very obscure and no cure or remedy for it has yet been discovered. All we know about it is that it is more fatal than any other known malady, and the usual time in which it takes the fatal turn is two days. The only possibilities means of avoiding it is to segregate and remove the person affected from all to be [illegible] is the only course which can be adopted to cope on the disease. The doctors differ as to how far the disease is infectious, but to call the attention of our diligent Executive to what looks like an overlooking in this direction. Not only are the walls and floors of these buildings white-washed, but so are the very doors, windows, and ceilings promiscuously dealt with, which simply impart to the houses a ghastly appearance. This is literally attempting to [illegible] "Beautiful Bombay" of its birth to well-applied epithet. To form a tolerably good fitting of the hideousness of these buildings, etc., I shall only recommend a visit to some of the native parts of the town. Besides, what a mere addition it must be to poor landlords to see the costly paints on the doors and ceilings of their spacious dwelling so [illegible] unhandily dealt with, to say no thing of the expense which they will incur later in repairing their disfigured houses.

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J. P. D.

THE LAY OF THE SALT INSPECTOR.

II.

When all the land is wrapt in funeral shroud—
A deep impenetrable sombre cloud ;
When stars are twinkling in the depths of serenity,
And kindly smile upon humanity.
Then faint and tired each one doth slowly creep
To seek a well deserved refreshing sleep.
When all the air resounds with hideous cries
Of screws, jackal, tufted owl, and "pies"
Companions of the darkness ; in this land
A subsidiary woman can't.
Then forth from home I steal unseen, unheard
By aught, save possibly a wakeful bird,
To do my daily work. I should say highly,
In disposition very far from sprightly.
I seek my favourite haunt the N R line ;
And wander up and down ; like "doing time,"
Cursing in accents low and deep
The luck of others who are wrapt in sleep.
While I, poor wretch, I should say highly,
To mightily groupon my gruesome round.
Out of the darkness suddenly there springs
A wild uncanny figure ; then there rings
Clear through the night the sepoy's cry of "Halt,
Who goes there ?" You sadly answer "Salt."

W. F. M.

CHINA NEWS.

News of a disquieting nature is published in the Shanghai papers regarding affairs in Korea. It is said that the position of his ministers the King has left the Russian Legation, where he has sheltered himself for the last part of the past year, and returned to the Midzel Palace. He was surrounded by foreign-drilled troops. In consequence of the excitement amongst the populace nearly hundred Russian marines were landed at Chemulpo and marched up to Seoul to protect Russian interests. Three Russian and British, and two Japanese men-of-war were in Chemulpo harbour at the time. The rumour is again afloat that Japan has question with China's right to allow Korea or a Russian Company to construct a railway through Manchuria, Liaotung, the territory that Japan ceded to China nearly two years ago on condition that it would not be given up to any other power.

The viceroys at Nanking and Wuchang and the Governor of Canton have commenced a crusade against Manila and other foreign riches within their jurisdiction, and the Board of Punishment has recommended banishment to the post roads for anyone selling these tickets.

The King of Siam is to take a trip to Europe this year, and will be present in England to take part in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. His Majesty leaves in the Royal yacht about the beginning of April for Genoa [illegible] he made by the Royal party in July, 1897, to England and France, but the longest stay will be made in England. The return journey will be made by America, and the party will be entertained in the Royal yacht from Hongkong to Bangkok.

On the 9th February a large crowd of over three thousand Buddhists met at the Sakyamuni monastery in Saigon to protest the increase of the poll tax on Chinese in the French colonies. The coolies placed all their possessions for [illegible] on the ox from 9.00 P.M. to 12 o'clock, upon the Chief of their congregation, and the exact coolies threatened to do him bodily harm, so that he had to receive the procession of the polite.

The opening of the West River is now spoken confident by about as on the 1st June, but no official intimation has as yet, as far as we can ascertain, been given.

A Correspondent in Canton writes that the establishment of the Imperial Postal Service in China has created considerable inconvenience to the Chinese in that district, by reason of the officials not having notified the people of the alterations. The people are now destining to purchase the Chinese newspapers published in Hongkong because of the exorbitant charge made for delivery. Mr. Lovell has written an letters to Miss Jacob, giving very ample apology for bringing the accusation against her of murdering Mr. Carew, and stating that he was entirely misled by some of his witnesses—two Japanese and one English—whose names he does not reveal.

The Shanghai Chamber of Commerce has refused to support any protest against the action of the Hong-kong Government in regard to the proposed increase in the wharfage dues at Hongkong until it is in possession of full information as to the reasons which actuated the Government in leaving the taxation complained of.

Some time ago we intimated that the Home Government had made a demand upon the colony for an increased contribution to the mail subsidy. The matter has been referred to the Chamber of Commerce, and from the documents published in this issue it will be seen that the amount likely to be required is £17,317, instead of £5,000 as formerly. The Chamber of Commerce has replied that until further information is supplied, it cannot take up consideration of the subject.

It has been decided to entertain H. E. Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese Minister to the United States, to dinner in the City Hall on the 5th instant, and it is expected that over three hundred persons will be present.—*China Mail*, (March 3.)

SPECIALITE FOR THE SKIN—Purest, most emollient and most lasting [illegible] of all soaps—The ALBION MILK AND SULPHUR SOAP is a highly agreeable and beneficial luxury for the toilet bath, and nursery. It and leaves the skin in a pure refreshed and healthy condition. Absolutely pure. A boon to sensitive skins. Indispensable for children. Creamy lather. Delicately perfumed. Sold by all Chemists, Stores, &c.

FEMININE FACTS AND FANCIES.

Mourning dress becomes smarter and smarter, presenting a very great contrast to the shrouding and obscuring form in which it was worn at the beginning of our Queen's reign. A model intended for the wear of a newly-bereaved widow is completely up-to-date in every particular, quite as much so as if it had been intended for a young wife, and this characteristic is observable in every detail, including millinery, at the well-known fashionable mourning warehouse which gives the law in all matters relative to the outward garb of woe, crape is no longer used in the solid masses which once were considered indispensable during at least the first few weeks of grief. Sometimes, the lasques of the coat are covered with crape, and the sleeves in the same way veiled with it. The less fashionable part of the community still clings to the once orthodox style, and houses that cater for such show models of mourning dresses with the skirts three pares covered with crape laid over French merino. Twenty-three inches comprise the depth of this covering, with a couple of narrow bands above it. Sometimes the whole skirt is composed of waterproof crape, which, in its present development, is a very different article from the heavy, harsh-textured material that it was in the youth of the present century. English crape is now in demand all the world over. No other country can approach us in this manufacture. In France, when mourning for the dead and remembrance of them are more observed than even among ourselves, quantities of crape are used during the first three months of loss. Skirts are covered with it half way up, capes are edged with it, bonnets and veils composed entirely of it.

Here in England, among the smartly dressed, the crape cloth which was in vogue some eight or nine years back, is considered deep enough mourning, and, indeed, it so strongly resembles crape as to express the same idea of recent bereavement. The "widow's mantle" of old days is seldom seen as present. It was a shapeless, heavy, and highly inconvenient garment, and its sole reason for being was the unmistakable and distinct impression of mourning that it conveyed. It is now replaced by fashionably cut capes, coats, and jackets. The principal materials now used for mourning dresses are Henrietta cloth, French Merino, and dull black silk, in addition to the crape cloth already mentioned. Among the recent models of mourning dress may be mentioned one in which the skirt as made of Henrietta cloth the bodice being almost entirely hidden by a crape bolero slightly open in front, and filled in with a double frill of black chiffon hemmed with crap. The sleeves are in the Henrietta cloth. Another mourning dress, in the latest style, has a zouave of black crape, finished all round the edges with a narrow ruche hemmed with the same materials. The whole of the rest of the dress is in black cloth, dull of surface and unrespective to the light, as all materials used in the early days of mourning should be. These two instances will prove how completely in harmony with up-to-date styles is modern mourning. In the same way, that worn by young girls has crape introduced, after the fashion that any other trimming might be, in the sketch shown it is laid on the bodice to simulate a square yoke with pointed tabs in the form of braces at either side. The frills of the sleeves are hemmed with crape, and three bands encircle the wrists. The skirt is also trimmed with rolls of crape. Linen collar and cuffs are usually worn.

The period of morning were very much longer at the beginning of the Queen's reign than they are at the present moment, and the widow's retirement from social life is now but many as protracted as in those days. The leading authorities on such matters lay down the rule that deep weeds must be worn for a year and a day after which the widow may give up crape, though many wear it six months longer. It is usual to wear black slightly relieved with white for the second year. The introduction of white into the bands of the head and wrists marks the first step in lightening the mourning. Mourning for a parent consists of deep crape for six months, black without crape for three months, and half mourning for the third of the year. Similar rules govern that of a mother's for a child. Crape is worn for three months after the death of a brother or sister, plain black for three more, subsequent to which half-mourning is usually adopted for a month or two. A niece wears black for two months, and half-mourning for a month. The death of an uncle or aunt and the same periods are observed by an aunt for a nephew or niece. On the death of a grand-parent, crape is worn for three more, and, sometimes, half-mourning during the remainder of the twelvemonth. For a cousin, three months' black is the usual rule.

The tendency is to still further shorten these periods of mourning, especially for more distant ties, but so for as the great bulk of the nation is concerned it is unlikely that any radical change will take place. The plan of indicating mourning by wearing a band round one's sleeve of a coloured dress or jacket, if it ever existed to any extent among the educated classes, is now fallen completely into disuse. The sentiment attached to mourning is a beautiful one and will always retain its influence, quite apart from considerations of fashion. It is, however, the choniclesaer's duty to lay before the public the existent state of things, and there is no doubt that fashionable mourning has become as smart to outline and detail as any other form of dress in an extravagant age.

The Congress of Mothers to be held at Washington promises to be a very interesting affair. Numerous receptions are to be given by the leading citizens, among them being one by Mrs. Cleveland at the White House. Several of the papers will be read by male educationalists and other ; the opening one, by Mr. Frank H. Cushing, being on "The Mother and Child of the Primitive World." Another of the papers "Mother of the Subjugated World" is in the hands of an eloquent woman speaker ; and to the Mothers of Great Man," which is to be read by a prominent professor, a tribute which is likely to evoke a very favourable reception will be paid to mothers past and present.

Who is to decide upon the disputed question of colour ? Hitherto one of the cushions of good dressing has been the harmony of colour in one's dress. But a French woman now sojourning in New York, whose exquisite dressing is the envy of the bells of that city, declares this to be a complete mistake, and that nothing is more fatal for a blue-eyed woman than to dress herself in blue. She points out, what is indeed the truth, that an artificial-lyed colour in proximity to a natural colour has the inevitable result of injuring the latter. What, she asks, would be the effect of placing a piece of the most exquisite azure [illegible] to the foggy, sun-not of a summer sea-wave ? Her theory is that there is one colour to one shade of colour or one combination of colour which suits each individual woman, and it is this which must be sought for and diligently adhered to when found. No two women have precisely the same hue of complexion and vivid scarlet which may be an admirable colour for one dark-eyed brunette may be disastrous for another also in possession of dark eyes and hair.

As a general rule, this authority believes that white or light-coloured materials placed near the face are distinctly advantageous even when the wearer cannot boast the ivory or alabaster complexion black fabrics about the throat are almost universally trying, although, she declares, when they can be worn there is nothing more graceful and elegant and bright-coloured silk scarves round the neck she politely designs as an English bank holiday. The lady has also a fling at the English working girl's dress, which, she says, exceeds in shamliness, unsuitability and uncleanliness that of any other nationality. This is true ; but how is the factory-girl to be persuaded to abandon her ulster and feathered hat for a neat, modest, serviceable workman like dress ? Perhaps something might be done at the numberless girls' clubs where ladies give lessons in dress making. There is another point. Why should the uniform of children in the different charitable institutions be so painfully hideous ? Surely the vanity of the little girls is sufficiently mortified by having their hair cut short like boys, without compelling them to wear a dress which is needlessly and depressingly ugly !

In the evening dresses worn at the beginning of Her Majesty's reign the skirts just reached to the ground, and were amply proportioned the mode in which some of them were trimmed might afford suggestions for the present moment. Many had a deep ruche above the hem made of a double piece of the material cut on the cross and gathered into a full brought slightly up to a point on the right side. Others, again, opened to display a contrasting front [illegible] with a deep lace flounce at the foot, and a lace frill carried up the sidesseams intermixed either with flowers or bows. A couple of full gathered frills of lace appeared at the feet and flowers and bows with long ends were frequently carried up one side of the skirt, and in some of the fashion-plates of the day double skirts appear. The Queen, herself, was very partial to satin, and some of the portraits taken in the early days of her married life show that she as well as the ladies of her Court, favoured a modified hoop which the skirts were distended.

In 1837, 1838, and 1839 the turban was a fashionable head-dress, made in velvet or satin, embroidered in silver, formed into folds and *bandlonnes*, divided by bands of pearls, with a long end floating at one side. They were not very unlike the toques of our day, but they framed the face and descended below the ears. The spencer was another distinctive item in dress. For evening wear this was cut half-high and had bishop sleeves, to the wrist, with turned-back cuffs of lace. The fulness of the sleeves, just [illegible] of starting from the shoulder, was also [illegible] close-fitting cuff that descended some four or five inches from the armhole. As the waist the spencer described a point, and had frequently a long chain-pain attached to the side of much greater length than those we wear now. They fell well below the knee, with a watch, smelling [illegible], and chatelaine at the end. Day-gowns were cut open at the neck in a V-shape, sometimes only in the front, occasionally at the back and front ; and they were sometimes filled in with a net or muslin kerchief put on under the bodice. In the daytime sleeves were set in a band at the wrist and widened towards the elbow, where were either puffings or frillings meeting a tight sleeve. All these gowns had sloping shoulders, and were trimmed in pelerine fashion with velvet or bands of the silk having waist-bands and buckles. Some of these fashions we may adapt with advantage, but certainly not in their entirety. It remains to be proved whether we shall ever come back to the shawl, which needed such careful adjustment.

Follies repeat themselves. It was Edward IV. who decreed that a shoemaker making peaked toes more than two inches long should be fined twenty shillings. Now, untrammelled by such laws, one of our most fashionable bootmakers has introduced long pointed toes which have to be filled in with cork at the tips, and are mostly carried out in the finest patent leather with small buckles on the instep, illustrating the utmost perfection of workmanship. Being so it would be wiser to relegate them to our cabinets of curiosities. In the Tudor and Stuart time women desir as of rising in the world borrowed inordinately high heels from Italy, and these went by the name of "choppines"—Evelyn in his "Diary" calls them "scuffolds"—and the ladies who wore them to walk abroad had to have a servant on either side for support. This unpractical fashion is not likely to become very general following, but some beautifully made shoes, with heels, varying from [illegible] seven inches in height, are to be seen at a modern shoemaker's exhibited in the most costly of stuffs, such as floral brocaded velvet on cream satin, and gold and silver brocades introduced on the [illegible] as well as on the upper part of the shoes. It seems almost impossible that the wearers could walk in [illegible] but they do. The proportions could hardly be considerably reduces the apparent size of the [illegible] but the wearer must be standing on the very [illegible] of the toes.

"Don't Look Old."—With advancing years greyness increases. Soap thin Restorer, which preserves the Hair Restorer.

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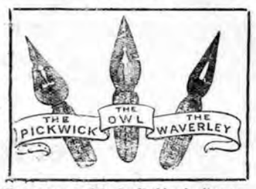

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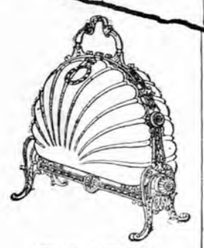

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POCKET FIELD GLASSES.

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Horses ! Horses !!

Also new horses arrived to-day from Cape of Good Hope 1st time in Bombay. Walers, Arabs Persians and other Horses, Racers, Chargers, Hunters, Race and Polo Ponies, and Remounts. Walers trained to Saddle and Single and Double Harness.

I have opened a Branch Stable at Mumbra, which was visited by the Officer Commanding 3rd Hyderabad Contingent, Aurungabad, who purchased 27 Remounts.

As mentioned above all sorts of Horses are ready for sale, every convenience afforded to visitors. For particulars see Handbills enclosed in issue of "Bombay Gazette" of 10th February.

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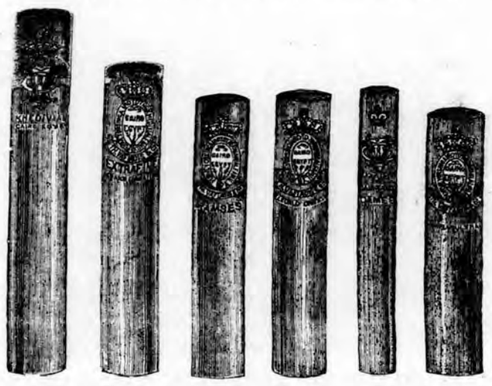

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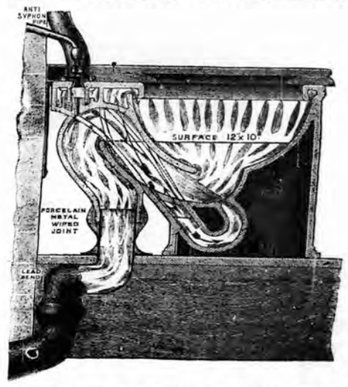

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